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# CASES

OF THE

# EPILEPSY, HYSTERIC FITS,

AND

# ST. VITUS DANCE,

WITH THE

# PROCESS of CURE:

Interſperſed with Practical OBSERVATIONS.

To which are added

## CASES of the Bite of mad Creatures,

Treated after the Method of Dr. *Deſault*, with ſome additional Means of my own; Obſervations upon the ſame, and Remedies propoſed for the Cure of the HYDROPHOBIA.

---

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Cæterum quantumcunque fuerint aliorum Conamina, ſemper exiſtimavi mihi vitalis auræ uſum fruſtra datum fore, niſi & ipſe in hoc ſtudio Verſatus, Symbolum aliquod, utcunque exiguum, in commune Medicinæ ærarium contribuerem. *Sydenh. Præf.*

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*LONDON*,

Printed for W. MEADOWS and J. CLARKE in *Cornhill*. MDCCXLVI.

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THE

# THE INTRODUCTION.

FROM the first Establishment of the *London Infirmary*, where daily numbers of diseased Objects resort for Relief, I have made it my chief Study to turn this great Opportunity to the Advantage of the Public, by making proper Observations upon the Operation of Medicines in all Constitutions, in order to find out, if possible, surer and more concise Means than are commonly known, to cure divers calamitous Diseases incident to Mankind. And as Epilep-

ſies and Hyſteric Fits are of late become very frequent, and reduce the unhappy Perſon labouring under them to the moſt deplorable Condition; I therefore publiſh here, by Way of Eſſay, divers Caſes, by whoſe Example the Reader will ſee the Method I treated them with, and its Succeſs; what Intention is chiefly to be purſued, and how the Remedies are to be varied, according to the Exigency of the Symptoms, Age, Conſtitution, Sex, and other Circumſtances.

From theſe Obſervations it appears in general, that Evacuations are the Foundation of the Cure in all kind of Fits, which however ſhould be moderated with Judgment, in Proportion to the Strength of the Patient; and that the proximate Cauſes of the Diſeaſe require Medicines properly

perly adapted to remove them. Thus in obſtructed Women troubled with Fits, deobſtruent Medicines are particularly indicated; when Fits proceed from a local Diſorder or external Injury, beſides Internals, topical Application is alſo required; when from an Exceſs in the Non-naturals, theſe muſt be regulated; when from Worms, all the Tribe of nervous Drogues and Preparations prove ineffectual, but Helmintics muſt do the Buſineſs. In ſhort, if the Practitioner does not make this Diſtinction, the Attempt will not only prove fruitleſs, but alſo may be injurious to the Conſtitution.

How vain therefore is it to imagine, that Miſletoe, Valerian, or any other Drogue ſhould cure Fits from thoſe ſeveral Cauſes by a ſpe-

cific Virtue; or that Pretenders in Phyſick can ſell, by Way of Advertiſement, Medicines ſuitable in all Caſes and Conditions of Life?

I am ſenſible that ſome have taken upon them to publiſh Caſes, either intirely fictitious, or embelliſhed with Variety of Symptoms and Courſes of Medicines, hatched in their own Brain, to raiſe their Reputation, which has brought this moſt uſeful Way of Writing into ſome Diſregard, and made me heſitate a little at firſt, when I undertook this Taſk. But Facts are ſtubborn Things, and not to be baffled; and as the preſent Caſes are genuine, and literally true in every Particular (which by the by may apologize for the Plainneſs of Stile they appear in) as any one may be convinced of by inſpecting our

Books

Books at the *Infirmary*; I flatter myſelf they will be uſeful, and received with that Diſtinction as is due to a Set of Rules the Practitioner may follow with all the Safety imaginable.

Some of theſe Caſes indeed are long and tedious, either by Reaſon that the Means were not uſed ſo diligently as was requiſite, or that they did not admit of a ſpeedier Cure, and therefore perhaps would have been deemed as incurable in the common Way of Practice. For the regular Practitioner is ſeldom indulged long enough in chronical Caſes, to try fairly the Efficacy of his Method; whereas the Empyric is ſuffered, without repining, to go on impoſing upon his Patient, as long as he pleaſes; and for this Reaſon it is I have inſerted thoſe

Caſes deſignedly as a Rebuke to that injudicious Way of Proceeding.

I take the Liberty of mentioning the Names at length, of thoſe who were cured at the Expence of the *Infirmary*, thinking it a Debt due from them to the Public, to ſhew by their Example what Method may ſerve to cure their Benefactors and other Fellow Creatures, afflicted with the like Diſeaſes. But a few anonymous Caſes are inſerted from private Practice, and only ſuch as corroborate ſome of the others, to avoid, if poſſible, all Suſpicion of Fallacy; and if theſe ſhould be called in Queſtion, I can at any Time verify every Particular in Relation to them.

As the Spirit of Quacking prevails at preſent to an Exceſs, leſt this Tract ſhould encourage the Ignorant

to dabble with my Materials, I only mention the Medicines given, but not their Quantities or Doſes; which therefore is left to the Diſcretion of the ſkilful Practitioner.

I ſhall not trouble the Reader with a long Detail of ſpeculative Notions upon the Subject, but only inſert, by way of Introduction, a brief Account, to furniſh ſo much as may be neceſſary to form a proper Diſtinction between theſe Caſes, and to illuſtrate the various Symptoms that occur in them.

The Epilepſy appears ſo ſurpriſing in many Reſpects, that in former Ages it has been attributed to the particular Operation of the Gods, Devils, and Witchcraft, and other ſupernatural Cauſes. For no Geſture, Inflexion, or Poſture of the Body is to

be conceived, which it doth not produce; as running, turning, bending every Way, lying down like dead, ſtanding upright, or keeping the Body in a ſtiff and almoſt inſuperable Poſition.

Epileptic Fits are convulſive Motions, in which the whole Body or Part thereof are variouſly contracted and agitated. The Perſon is ſeized ſuddenly, deprived of his Senſes and Underſtanding, and thrown down with a ſort of Force. When down he grinds his Teeth, rolls about his Eyes, foams at Mouth, beats his Head, clenches his Hands, works his Arms, Legs and Body. Sometimes he lies diſtorted, or extended like dead, and in moſt the Breaſts, Hypochondria and Belly ſwell. When the Fit is going off, he commonly lies

as if fast asleep, and when come to himself he knows nothing of what is past, but complains of a Numbness and a kind of Heaviness of the Head, and universal Lassitude.

The Greatness of the Disease is judged from the Number of these Symptoms that concur in the Fit, and the Time of its Duration.

*Boetius in affectibus omissis*, mentions as an extraordinary Case a Boy of twelve Years of Age, who when the Fit was coming on, took to running streight forwards through Fire and Water till he met with Resistance, so as to be hindred from advancing any farther; which he calls *Epilepsia Cursiva*. Two Cases of this kind have offered to me, the one a Boy, the other a Girl, which the Reader will find among the Observations,

ſervations, together with Examples of moſt other Actions or Poſtures above-mentioned.

All theſe various and ſurpriſing Actions of the Body are owing to the different Contractions of the Muſcles from the various and irregular Impulſe of the nervous Fluid.

Epilepſies are ſometimes hereditary, either from the Father or Mother; they alſo proceed from a local Diſorder in and about the Brain, as when it is injured in its Integuments, Superficies, Subſtance, Ventricles, or Veſſels; from Wounds, Bruiſes, Impoſthumations, Ichor, Blood, ſharp Lymph in other Parts of the Body; from bony Excreſcences of the Inſide of the *Cranium*, or a Depreſſion of it. All which Cauſes are aggravated, when ſubſiſting, by a *Plethora*, too great

great Motion, Heat, Drunkenneſs, Gluttony, Venery; Paſſions of the Mind, Fright, Grief, Vexation, Anger, &c.

Epilepſies may alſo ariſe from Worms, the Teeth, Milk curdled, and other Saburra in the *primæ viæ* of Children, and Opiates or ſtrong Cordials or Volatiles unſeaſonably given; from the Stoppage of the *Menſes*, Piles, and other Evacuations; from Fevers not well depurated, Lodgment of extraneous Things upon the Nerves, Faſting, Surfeit, from exceſſive Evacuations, Drinking, Eating, Exerciſe; from violent, long or periodical Pains, hyſteric Fits long continued from great Application, Fright, Surpriſe, Vexation, and all other Paſſions of the Mind exerted immoderately.

An Epilepſy continues ſometimes many Years without Danger of Life, and often goes away of itſelf, eſpecially about the Age of Puberty; if not, it generally is hard to cure, and continues during Life, or degenerates into other Diſtempers, *viz.* Stupidity, Melancholy, Palſy, Cachexy, &c. When it is cauſed by an irregular Conformation of the Brain, Excreſcence of the *Cranium*, or other local Diſorder, it is either incurable, or its Cure depends upon the Removal of the local Deformity, or Complaint.

When it comes after the 25th Year, ſays *Hippocrates*, it continues as long as they live; but that this Rule is not without Exception, appears from ſome Inſtances in theſe Caſes.

An Epilepſy in general is harder to cure than hyſteric or hypochondriac Fits,

Fits, for as its Seat is commonly in the Brain, Medicines cannot eaſily take Effect, becauſe they muſt be divided into ſuch ſmall Particles to be let into the finer Tubules of its Texture, that they almoſt loſe intirely their original Property; whereas the other Sorts of Fits ariſing from the Stomach, *Viſcera*, *Meſenterium*, *Uterus*, and Parts nearly within the Reach of Remedies, may be cured with leſs Difficulty.

By Way of illuſtrating the Cauſe of Epilepſies, I ſhall inſert here a very extraordinary Caſe, related by Dr. *Thomas Short*, Phyſician at *Sheffield*, and F. R. S. in the *Edinb. Medic. Eſſays*, T. IV.

A Woman, ſays he, about 38 Years of Age, had laboured under an Epilepſy, which from one Fit a Month

was

was come to four or five in a Day, each continuing an Hour or an Hour and half, by which she was grown mopish and silly, and incapable of taking Care of her Family. Evacuations of all kinds, Epileptic, Cephalic, and many other Medicines had been tried in vain, the Disease growing still more severe.

Her Fit always began in the Leg, towards the lower Part of the Gastrocnemii Muscles, and in a Moment reached her Head, threw her down, foaming at Mouth, with terrible Distortions of the Mouth, Neck and Joints. Whilst he talked with her she fell into a Fit, he examined her Leg, but found no Swelling, Hardness, Laxness or Redness different in that Place from what was in the other Leg. But suspecting from her Fit beginning al-

ways

ways in that Place, that the Cauſe of the Diſeaſe lay there, he plunged a Scalpel about two Inches into it, and found a ſmall indurated Body, which he ſeparated from the Muſcles; it proved a hard cartilaginous Subſtance or *Ganglion*, about the Size of a very large Pea, ſeated on a Nerve, which he cut aſunder and took out the Tumor. The Woman inſtantly came out of her Fit, cried ſhe was well, and never after had a Fit, but recovered her former Vigor, both of Body and Mind.

What has been obſerved at the Diſſection of epileptic Perſons, may alſo contribute to give an Inſight into the Nature and Cauſe of this Diſeaſe, and confirm that Evacuations are the Baſis of the Cure, as mentioned above.

Dr.

Dr. *Willis*, in his Treatiſe *de Convulſionibus*, relates the Caſe of a Gentleman, who being deſcended from Parents that had laboured under Diſorders of the Brain and Nerves, after he had been long tormented with Fits, at laſt became aſthmatic, and died tabid. At the Opening of his Body, they found the *Omentum*, as is common in Perſons who die of a Decay, putrid and almoſt conſumed. The Stomach, Inteſtines, Pancreas, and Meſentery in good Order. The Spleen very well, Liver not ſcirrhous, but only a little inlarged. One of the Kidneys well, the other with a large Cavity diſtinct from the Pelvis, full of clear Water, as is often found in dropſical Perſons. The Lungs adhered to the *Sternum*, *Coſtæ*, and Diaphragm, and appeared almoſt in a State

a State of Purification. In each of the Ventricles of the Heart, Blood was found concreted into a ſolid, white Subſtance, like boiled Fleſh, which has been frequently obſerved in ſuch as die of chronical Diſorders. The *Cranium* being taken off, the Brain was found leſs than it ſhould have been, and fewer Circumvolutions; from whence the Doctor ſuſpected, that not a ſufficient Quantity of Animal Spirits had been ſecreted. The whole Subſtance was moiſter than is natural, ſeemed to be ſoaked in Water, and the Ventricles were full of limpid Water. The Trunk of the *Spinalis Medulla* immerged alſo in clear Water, was waſted to half its Subſtance.

In the *Edinburgh Medical Eſſays* is alſo related the Diſſection of a Boy

of four Years, who had ſtrong Symptoms of Worms, and died epileptic. The Bowels of the lower Belly were found all ſound, the Stomach almoſt empty, not the leaſt Appearance of Worms in the Bowels, only near the Beginning of the *Jejunum* about two Ounces of a glairy Subſtance of the Conſiſtence of Jelly. The Bile was ſomewhat thicker than natural, and of a duſky Colour. The Lungs adhered every where, and were full of purulent Tubercles. The Blood Veſſels of the Brain were all greatly diſtended with Blood, and in the Ventricles about ſix Ounces of Water. The Brain itſelf appeared quite ſound.

The firſt Caſe denotes plainly, that the external Injury of a Nerve, in any Part of the Body, may produce by Conſent convulſive Motions

in

in the Brain, and occaſion all the horrid Train of an Epileſy. The practical Caution from hence is, that when ſuch Fits happen after an external Hurt of ſome nervous Part, the Cauſe is to be removed firſt, before a Cure by proper Specificks is to be expected. Upon this Principle I commenced the Cure of *David Manſon*, Caſe XIV. by Evacuations, under a Suppoſition, that the Blow he had received had occaſioned ſome Lodgment of peccant Humours upon the Nerves in that Part, which by Conſent had affected other Nerves, and brought on the various Complaints he laboured under, and which had its deſired Effect.

From the ſecond we may ſuppoſe, that thoſe who are hereditarily epileptic, are often ſubject to a natural

Defect in the Organs, and that when this is the Case a Cure is impracticable. However the great Quantity of Water in which the Brain was immerged, (by which Means the Activity of the Animal Spirits was extinguished, and which I take to be the Case, when after a long Continuation of Fits the Patient grows stupid and loses his Intellects) seems to indicate, that Evacuations, and sometimes brisk ones, are proper by Cathartics rather than Emetics. By this Means, if a perfect Cure is not, at least a palliative one may be obtained, so as to preserve the Animal Frame from being totally dissolved. On the other Hand it is reasonable to imagine, that if the Lymph collected there, and grown acrimonious stimulates and occasions those Spasms, is carried off

from Time to Time, the Violence of the Fits may be greatly mitigated, if not totally eradicated.

The third Caſe ſhews again, that Evacuations would have been very beneficial here. This I have experienced in a Number of Children, troubled with Fits, whom I have cured by evacuating Medicines chiefly; and am well perſuaded that all the Antiepileptics will take no Effect, unleſs the Baſis of the Cure is founded upon this Principle, as Fits in tender Infants generally proceed from a crude and undigeſted Matter lodged in the *primæ viæ*. But as they alſo often come from Worms, even in this Caſe Purging is very proper, to diſturb their Neſt, and carry off the *Saburra* in which they harbour, after which antihelmintic Medicines

will ſooner take Place and expel them. And thus the Cauſe being removed, the Effects (the Fits) will ceaſe of Courſe.

This farther Remark is deduced from hence, that as every Symptom of Worms, except that of voiding them, ſometimes proceeds from other Cauſes, we therefore ought not to confine the Method of Cure to vermifuge Medicines only, but at the ſame Time direct it to the chief Symptoms, as if they were eſſential and independent of any ſuch Cauſes.—It is a common Practice to hold People in Fits down by main Force, and to conſtrain their Limbs from Working, with a View to relieve them, and to abate the Fit. But it is far otherwiſe; for as thoſe violent Agitations are an Endeavour of Nature

to

to throw off ſome peccant Matter, by reſtraining them this Intention is hindred, and the Fit thereby prolonged. This ſeveral of my Patients have aſſured me to be the Caſe from their own Obſervation. Beſides that the ſtrong Compreſſion uſed upon thoſe Occaſions, cauſes a violent Pain in all thoſe Limbs where they are held, and greatly adds to that univerſal Laſſitude, which Fits naturally leave behind them. For this Reaſon they ſhould be held no otherwiſe, than may ſerve only to prevent their doing themſelves a Miſchief.

The cold Bath is much recommended by the preſent Practice for the Cure of Fits. It is evident that in the Caſes above recited it could have done no Service, but muſt have been detrimental. Could it be expected,

that the Shock from the ſudden Immerſion into cold Water ſhould rectify the natural Defect of the Brain, diſlodge the *Ganglium* fixed upon the Nerve, or expel the Jelly like Subſtance, which adhered to the Inteſtine? It may have a very good Effect, when the Caſe is recent, and none of the Solids are vitiated; when the Fits proceed from Fright, Vexation, and other Paſſions of the Mind; when from an irregular Circulation, the Fluids in general, or in particular Parts of the Body, are coagulated, or otherwiſe vitiated; and in ſhort, when the Conſtitution is ſtrong enough to reſiſt the Violence of the Shock, and the Fibres have ſufficient Elaſticity to repel Force by Force, and reſtore the Circulation with Vigour proportionable to the violent Impulſe from without.

But

But when the Nerves are debilitated by a long Continuation of Fits, or the Conſtitution is naturally weak, and the Patient comes out cold, and remains chilly all Day, it ought to be left off, becauſe the Patient will grow worſe, as is found by Experience, inſtead of earning a Reward for the fatiguing Experiment.

I muſt own I ſhould have often ordered it to ſome of my poor Patients, but have been obliged to do without it, on Account of their Circumſtances, and the *Infirmary* not being as yet provided with a Cold Bath, which however is now ordered to be built.

As Epileptics are commonly influenced by the Changes of the Moon, *Willis* recommends Evacuations to be made about that Time by Vomiting,

miting, Bleeding, and Purging, which I have found of very great Service, when the Conſtitution, Time of the *Menſes*, and other Circumſtances will permit. For the other Remedies I refer the Reader to that Author, or ſuch as have wrote upon this Subject, and my own Obſervations.

Hyſteric Fits commonly begin with a Working in the *Abdomen*, then enſue a Diſtention and Rumbling of the *Hypochondria*, with a Swelling at Stomach, Belching, Endeavour to vomit, unequal Reſpiration, and often obſtructed; a Riſing and Suffocation in the Throat, *Vertigo*, Inverſion or Rotation of the Eyes, Laughing, Crying, with an obſcure Pulſe, or none, and a cadaverous Countenance: ſometimes convulſive Motions in the Face and Limbs, or of the whole Body.

Theſe

Theſe Fits often ſo nearly reſemble epileptic Fits, that it is difficult to diſtinguiſh them. But when the Patient immediately after the Attack is ſeized with a *Vertigo*, or great Diſorder in the Head, or ſuddenly falls down with Force, theſe Fits are to be ranked among the Epileptic, although they firſt began in the *Abdomen*; for notwithſtanding their original Seat is there, yet by Length of Time the nervous Syſtem may be ſo weakned, that at their coming on the *Cerebrum* is immediately affected, and thus hyſteric Fits by Degrees degenerate into epileptic. And but few there are, who have been ſubject to Fits any conſiderable Time, that have not a Mixture of epileptic Symptoms with them.

That

That hyſteric Fits are capable of doing ſo much Miſchief to the Nerves and ſolid Parts of the human Fabric, appears plain from the Diſſection of Bodies.

Dr. *Willis*, in his Treatiſe *de Morbis convulſivis*, mentions the Caſe of a Gentlewoman that had been long afflicted with Fits, and at laſt died of an Apoplexy. She complained of a violent Pain in the *Abdomen* and Loins, upon which Convulſion Fits enſued. After ſhe had been pregnant about two or three Months, ſhe generally miſcarried, under moſt excruciating Pains. The Fits came on with a Weight ſeeming to riſe from the *Abdomen* up to the Throat, and Suffocation; then ſhe had Spaſms in her Face, and after that the whole Body was convulſed.

When dead, the Parts below the Seat of this violent Pain, the Thighs and Legs, were obſerved to be greatly emaciated, but the Face, Neck and Arms were plump and full of Fleſh. Within 40 Hours after her Deceaſe the Skin turned livid, in ſome Places green and black, and the Body being ſo ſoon putrified, emitted a moſt offenſive Stench: which he aſcribes to the Principle of Mixtion in the Juices, being diſſolved by the frequent ſpaſmodic Agitation of the Muſcles. In like Manner as the Fleſh of a Deer, that has been hunted down, or bruiſed, or beat, putrifies much ſooner than that of an Animal which is killed in a quiet State.

The Stomach and Inteſtines were found in good Order, except that they ſeemed very much inflated. In the

Middle

Middle of the Meſentery, where it is connected to the Back, a part, the Bigneſs of one's Hand, was puffed up, as if blown up into Veſicles, which being opened, contained nothing but Air, and was judged to be the principal Seat of the Diſtemper; for though the *Uterus* had been accuſed by many to be in Fault, he found it in good Condition, and none of its Appendages any Ways defective, ſo that he concludes Hyſteric Fits are oftner owing to other Cauſes than Diſorders of the *Uterus*.

The Kidneys were ſound, but divided into ſeveral Lobes like thoſe of Calves. The Melt, *Pancreas*, and *Omentum* very well, but the Liver ſwelled, hard and putrid like rotten Wood, probably owing to the ſtrong and hot Medicines ſhe had been long accuſtomed to. The

The Lungs were livid, obſtructed, and contained a frothy and fœtid Ichor.

The Veſſels of the *Meninges* and *Cerebrum* were full of Blood, when hardly any appeared in diſſecting the other Parts of the Body. The *Plicæ & Anfractus*, as well as the Cavities of the Brain, ſeemed to be filled with Water. The *Plexus Choroideus* having been long ſoaked in it, was grown diſcoloured and almoſt putrid. The Lymph having penetrated into the *Pia Mater* below the *Medulla Oblongata*, and falling down from thence upon the *Plexus Meſenterii*, doubtleſs was the Occaſion of the violent Spaſms and Pains in thoſe Parts.

It is needleſs to comment much upon this Quotation. Every Reader

may

may collect from it an Idea of what generally ſpeaking paſſes in the Frame of ſuch as have been long tormented with Fits, what Method of Cure may be proper, and what Succeſs may be expected: or applying it to theſe Caſes, judge whether the Proceſs I there propoſe is ſupported by a proper Rationale or not.

*Purcel*, in his Treatiſe upon this Subject ſays, that in Regard to the Cure, the Phyſician is carefully to examine, whether the Patient be of a ſanguine, cholerick, melancholy, or phlegmatic Conſtitution, and alſo the peculiar kind of Crudity, occaſioning the Diſtemper, whether it renders the Diſpoſition of the Blood too viſcid and glutinous, or too looſe, and ſubject to Fermentation. A Senſation of Cold in the Back, and a weak and

ſlow

ſlow Pulſe argue a Sizineſs of the Blood: A quick Pulſe, a great Heat ſucceeding Cold, and the Smell of Muſk, Civet, Amber, &c. occaſioning a Fit, ſhew the State of the Blood more looſe and ſubject to Fermentation.

When the Blood is viſcid and ſizy, Bleeding is convenient, and the Day after, or the next following, an Emetick, or if this is not approved of, a Cathartick. This being premiſed, Attenuants and Aperitives are to be made uſe of, Decoctions with opening Roots and Herbs, Chalibeate Medicines, Volatiles, &c.——When the Blood is too looſe and apt to ferment, Remedies temperating that Heat are indicated, as Bleeding, *Cort. Peruv.* Chalybeate Waters, cooling Emulſions, Broth made of Crayfiſh, &c. Thus far *Purcel.*

It is a common and received Maxim, that hyſteric People don't bear Evacuations well: But I have obſerved that when the Patient is plethoric, or the hyſteric Diſorders have a Mixture of epileptic Symptoms, Evacuations generally have a good Effect; although it muſt be owned that this alſo is not without Exception, for I have found the Contrary ſometimes, eſpecially in weak Perſons, and in ſuch Caſe Indications are to be taken *à lædentibus & juvantibus*. But gentle Evacuations, ſuch as may be procured by moderate Doſes of the *Pil. fœtid.* I ever found advantageous, unleſs forbid by a *Diarrhœa*, Dyſentery, Hæmorrhage from the *Uterus* and Hæmorrhoids: for as ſuch Patients are commonly coſtive, they are greatly relieved by

aperient

aperient Medicines; and it is a general Obſervation with me, that when the Evacuations by Urine and Stool are brought into their natural Courſe, the Cure is near at Hand.

The Indications of Cure in Men and Women are nearly alike, the primary Cauſe in both being generally Crudities and vicious Coctions, which moſt commonly at the coming on of the Fit produce a Heavineſs and Flatulencies at Stomach, and *Borborigmi* in the *Viſcera*, and afterwards by Degrees a Diſorder of the Spirits and Spaſms. And although Obſtructions of the *Uterus* render Women ſubject to various Diſorders, which Men are not liable to, yet the ſame kind of Medicines that are given to cure Men of Fits, moſt commonly alſo remove

them. However it is to be noted, that in Caſe of Obſtructions, Bleeding in the Foot is of great Service, and this to be repeated from Time to Time as the Conſtitution will bear it; but when the Woman is pregnant, or labours under an Hæmorrhage from the *Uterus*, from Weakneſs, forcing Remedies are to be avoided, but bleeding in the Arm, cooling Purges, and corroborating Medicines are proper. When a Flux of the *Uterus* happens from a *Plethora*, as is common about the Age of the *Menſes* going off, beſides V. S. I commonly order a little Calomel and purge it off the next Day with a cooling Doſe, which generally anſwers the deſired End, without any reſtringent Medicines; if theſe are given without proper Evacuations between,

between, a *Scirrhus*, Cancer of the Womb, and many other deplorable Diſorders will enſue.

I have cured many Women of Fits that laboured under an *Obſtructio Menſium*, before this was removed; and on the other Hand many have become regular before they were cured of their Fits. For this Reaſon the Practitioner is not to imagine that the Cure will be perfected, when the Obſtruction is removed; which Obſervation I have alſo found true in ſome that never had their *Menſtrua* before.

Chalybeate Medicines are recommended in Men and Women for Fits, eſpecially when accompanied with the *Obſtr. Menſium*; but when there is a *Plethora*, they are precarious. I remember the Caſe of two midle-

aged Women of that Complexion, that had weak Nerves, and with drinking the *Iſlington* Chalybeate Waters got a Fever, attended with Spaſms, Tremors, Horrors, and other hyſteric Diſorders, and their Nerves remained weak a conſiderable while after the Fever was gone off. For the Velocity and *Pondus* of the Blood being increaſed, the animal Spirits, which are ſubject already to an irregular Fluctuation, are ſtill more hurried on, and ruſh in upon the Nerves with more Vehemence, and occaſion Fits when the Nerves are that Way diſpoſed, or increaſe them when the Perſon is ſubject to them already.

In ſuch Conſtitutions I therefore chuſe to begin with Bleeding, Vomiting and Purging, which if the Caſe requires, and the Strength of the Patient

tient can bear it, I repeat about the Changes of the Moon, give antiſpaſmodic Medicines between, bliſter occaſionally, and laſtly Chalybeates may come in to eſtabliſh the Cure. But ſome of this Complexion I have cured almoſt by Evacuations only, with very little other Aſſiſtance, as appears from the Caſes.

Phlegmatic, cachectic, and weakly Subjects don't bear ſo well theſe Evacuations; for Fear of reducing them, ſo as they may not be able to ſtruggle with the Violence of the Fits, gentler Means are to be uſed. The *Pil. fœtid.* given as an Aperient every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitriol. Mynſ.* to brace up at the ſame Time, very often anſwer all the Intentions: But if this Method doth not take Place, ſuch other nervous, aromatic, volatile,

and ſtomachic Medicines muſt be called to aid as are indicated by the Symptoms that ſpring up from Time to Time, as may be ſeen ſet forth at large in the before quoted Treatiſe of Dr. *Willis de Convulſ.*

Concerning the Cure of Children, I muſt remark here as above, under the Article of Epilepſy, that Evacuations muſt lay the Foundation for a Cure, and that without this you may bliſter the Child 'till he is ſtead all over, or give him *Pulv. ad Guttet. Cancr. cum Bez.* and all the nervous Tribe 'till he is choak'd with them, to no manner of Purpoſe.

Cold Bathing may be of great Uſe or prove otherwiſe, as has been explained under the Head of Epilepſy. Riding on Horſeback ſtrenghtens the Nerves, and therefore is very beneficial,

ficial, when it can be uſed with Safety; and all other Sorts of Exerciſe are uſeful, provided they are not violent or fatiguing; alſo Country Air, chearful Company and Diverſions, which don't hurry or exhauſt the Spirits, are proper. Their Diet ſhould be moderate, and ſuch as is eaſy of Digeſtion, and may not impregnate the Maſs of Blood with acrimonious Juices.

The *Chorea Sancti Viti*, or *St. Vitus Dance*, *Tetanus*, *Emproſtothonus*, *Epiſtothonus*, *Spaſmus Cynicus*, *Tortura Oris*, and other Spaſms are all to be treated after this Method, therefore it is needleſs to enter upon Particulars concerning their Cure.

CASE

## CASE I.

*Epilepſia Curſiva*, Running Fits.

*Rebecca Cole*, aged ſixteen, was ſeized with Fits when about ſeven Years old, ſtruggling hard, and claſping hold of any Thing ſhe could lay Hands on. Since the Age of fifteen they come on in the following Manner; firſt ſhe perceives a Weight in her Head, which makes her hang it down, then a Tremor all over and Fainting, then runs 'till ſhe meets with ſome Reſiſtance, then falls down, ſtruggles at firſt, after that lies ſtill, and gradually comes to herſelf again. The Fit being over ſhe trembles, is faint, ſick at Stomach, and dizzy, and now by the frequent Returns of them

them is almoſt become ſtupid. Her right Side is affected moſt, can hardly hold ſtill that Arm, which ſeems to be in continual Agitation, like the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, is generally coſtive, and obſerves when ſhe goes to Stool regularly her Fits are not ſo frequent. She often bleeds at Noſe to the Quantity of eight Ounces, which relieves her Head, and ſeldom has Fits at that Time. Has never had her *Menſes*.

*Aug.* 28, 1745. Ordered *V. S. ped.* an Emetic in the Afternoon, a Calomel Pill at Night, and Cathartic the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night.

*Aug.* 30. Had had Fits every Day, had like to run one Time into the Fire, if People in the Ward had not prevented it. Ordered *Pil. fœtid.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitriol.* twice a Day.

*Sept.*

*Sept.* 2. Continued having the ſame Sort of Fits every Day, Head, Trembling and Shaking of the Arm very bad. Ordered a perpetual Bliſter upon the Inſide of the Arm affected, and to continue the Pills and Drops.

*Sept.* 4. Finds herſelf better, Trembling and Shaking of the Arm not ſo very bad. Ordered a Calomel Pill at Night, a Cathartic the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night. After that to uſe again the *Pil. fœtid.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

*Sept.* 12. Had been without Fits ſeveral Days, but quarrelling with another in the Ward had one Yeſterday, yet without any Running. Continued the Pills and Drops.

*Sept.* 18. Eats and ſleeps very well, Drowzineſs and Stupidity almoſt gone, holds the right Arm ſteady, and has

almoſt

almoſt as much Uſe of it as of the other, begins to have a lively Colour in her Face, and not having had any Fit ſince the 12th, her Trembling better but not quite gone, deſires to return Thanks to the Houſe Committee, and to be continued as an Out-patient.

After this ſhe had Medicines twice or three Times more, ſtill continuing to mend, and the laſt Time I ſaw her, ſhe ſaid ſhe had remained free from Fits, her Tremor quite gone, and had ſeen a Shew of the *Catamenia*; which induces me to think, as ſhe never returned ſince, ſhe was perfectly cured and her Health compleatly eſtabliſhed.

CASE

## CASE II.

### *Another Example of the Running Epilepsy.*

*William Skelwin*, aged eight, had four Years ago Convulsion Fits from a Fright, after that, when they came on, his Eyes run with Water, both Arms drew forward up to his Face, then his Head beat downwards, and he fell a screaming and struggling, with Loss of Senses. He commonly had seven or eight of these Fits a Day, and from the first Onset they perceived his right Arm and Leg to be lame, which have continued so ever since.

Since that, when the Fit is coming on, he runs with Violence, as fast

faſt as the Lameneſs of his Leg will permit, ſtreight forwards 'till he meets with Oppoſition, or ſome Body catches him, with Screaming, and at laſt drops down, and lies like a dead Corps.——They perceive that he is worſe Spring and Fall. The two laſt Summers he had Eruptions on his Head, during which Time he was better, but this Summer has none, and his Fits are worſe.——He eats, and ſleeps well, *Alvus* regular, and Urine of common Appearance.—Has taken various Remedies, and uſed the Cold Bath, which they thought made him briſker. His Arm is almoſt uſeleſs, but he can walk, though not without ſome Difficulty and Limping.——His Mouth is continually driveling with *Saliva*, and his Speech and Memory are ſo much impaired that he appears like a Natural.

*June*

*June* 19, 1745. The first Time of his coming to the *Infirmary*, I ordered *Epispast. perpet. nuch.* The *Pil. fœt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitriol. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*July* 17. The Mother, to excuſe her not coming for Medicines before, ſaid ſhe had been ill herſelf, and though the Child had not had Medicines for all the Time, yet ſhe ſaid his Running was not ſo violent, neither did he fall ſo hard. His Spirits, Memory and Speech ſeem better, his Lameneſs not quite ſo bad, but drivels as before.——Had the Pills and Drops again.

*Aug.* 7. The Mother ſaid one of her Children had been ill of the Small Pox, which prevented her coming for Medicines ſooner, but that the Boy's Fits were better. As he began

to

to loath his Pills, I ordered him to take the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* twice a Day, and every other Morning an aperient Medicine.

*Aug.* 21. Has his Running Fits ſtill, but not ſo violent, neither doth he fall down, but ſeems to be very much fluſtered; the Fit comes on with a Working in his Hands and Arms.——Had the laſt Medicines again.

*Sept.* 11. Some Boils broke out in his Head, is troubled very much with the *Vertigo*, but the Running Fits not ſo bad.——I ordered him to be blooded, to take an Emetic the Evening, and a Cathartic the Morning following (it being about the Change of the Moon, at which Time he was generally obſerved to be worſe) and afterwards the *Lac Ammon. &c.* as before.

*Sept.* 18. Had no Running Fits, *Vertigo*, Speech and Memory mended.——Now we returned again to the *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitriol.* as above.

*Oct.* 2. Continues on the mending Hand. Ordered *Pil. fæt.* and *Decoct. Lign.* for his common Drink.

*Oct.* 16. Had a Fit two Days ago, and cut his Forehead with the Fall. The Mother wiſhed the miſerable Child dead, and ſeemed to be out of Hopes of getting a Cure for him. Ordered Bleeding in the *Jugular*, an Emetic in the Evening, a gentle Paregoric going to Bed, and as his Appetite was very bad, the *Elix. Vitriol.* three Times a Day.

*Nov.* 1. The Fits much the ſame, his Lameneſs and Speech better, complained of Sickneſs at Stomach; ordered

dered another Emetic, the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before, and *Opodeldoch* for his lame Limbs.

*Nov.* 8. Was taken into the Houſe, had a Running Fit, and if a Patient had not catch'd him, would have run into the Fire.——Went on with the Pills and Drops; and a perpetual Bliſter was applied to the lame Arm.

Theſe ſort of Medicines were continued, with very little Alteration, the Child continuing to mend, though but ſlowly, 'till the 2. *Dec.* when I ordered again Evacuations by Bleeding and Purging, after that the Pills and Drops as before.

*Dec.* 6. Within theſe few Days laſt the Boy has mended conſiderably, his Speech and Underſtanding ſeem much clearer, the Driveling almoſt gone off, can hold a Cup and bring

it to his Mouth with the lame Arm, walks almoſt without Limping, has had no Fit for ſeveral Days, the laſt he had, did not run at all, was only giddy; had like to fall down, but recovered ſoon.—Continued the Pills and Drops.

*Dec.* 10. The Boy continuing in a fine Way, was diſcharged out of the Houſe, being now in a Situation of receiving his Cure as an Out-patient; for this End a Quantity of the former Medicines were given him to go on with, and the Mother was told, if there was Occaſion, ſhe might apply for more.—As I have not heard from the Child ſince, I cannot ſay whether it was that he was perfectly well, or that they got him into ſome other Hoſpital. However from the great Amendment, a ſtrong Pre-

ſumption

ſumption ariſes, that by purſuing this Method, a perfect Cure would have been obtained.

Dr. *Willis*, to account for this Symptom of Running, ſays, it is owing to an Exploſion of the animal Spirits, and that the Body is hurried forwards, that being its natural Way of moving. The Doctrine of animal Spirits is yet undecided, and too abſtruſe for me to deduce Reaſons *à priori* for this Phænomenon: But one may ſuppoſe that the Seat of the Diſtemper was in the Forepart of the Brain, from a Parity of Reaſoning, as I have heard thoſe that uſed to fall backwards, or ſideways ſay, that they were always ſeized in the Part they fell upon, and the Concuſſions were moſt violent that Way.

In both theſe Caſes the right Side was affected, alſo the Boy's Speech, but not the Girl's, which in Proceſs of Time probably would have terminated in a perfect *Hemiplegia*. I imagine the right Lobe of the *Cerebrum* being affected, it preſſed upon that Portion of the *Cerebellum*, and from thence proceeded the Obſtruction of the Nerves on that Side.

Although the Boy had not had his Fits ſo long as the Girl, yet he was harder to cure than ſhe, the Appearance of the *Menſtrua*, which is the firſt of the grand Climacterics in Women, facilitating her Recovery greatly.

The Cure of both is chiefly performed by Evacuations, and bracing up the *primæ viæ* at the ſame Time.

CASE

## CASE III.

### *Epileptic Fits from Fright.*

ANN *Spender*, aged ſeventeen, of a pale Complexion, was frighted into a Fit when three Quarters of a Year old, as her Mother informed me, by a great Dog. Her Mouth was drawn on one Side, her Eyes convulſed, opening and ſhutting alternatively, catching with her Hands, and afterwards lying ſtill, like one ſtunned or dead.

Till the Age of eight or nine ſhe had them almoſt every two or three Days, from that Time to fourteen or fifteen but once in two or three Months, ſo that the Mother was in great Hopes they were going to leave

her. But ſince that ſhe has had them more frequent and ſtronger, and beſides the beforementioned Symptoms, ſhe now grinds her Teeth, catches and endeavours to bite every Thing near her, falls down on a ſudden with Force like one dead, and is generally ill ten to fourteen Days after; and as ſhe is of a peeviſh Temper, the leaſt Fright or Vexation occaſions a Fit.

Her Appetite is pretty good, when free from Fits; ſhe is generally coſtive, thirſty, and feveriſh. Has a Pain at Stomach, Shortneſs of Breath, is low ſpirited, and has never had her *Menſes*.

*May* 15, 1745. As her Maſs of Blood ſeemed to be in a poor State, I thought it not proper to bleed her, but ordered her to take of the *Pil. Ecphract.*

*Ecphract.* every other Night, of *Spir. C. C. & Tinct. fulig. cum Aff. ana p. æq.* three Times a Day, or when faint and low, and a Blifter to her Back.

*June* 12. Her Mother, being a poor Woman, excufed her not coming again before now for Medicines, faying her Daughter had had fome for moft of the Time, and that fhe could not truft her alone on Account of her Fits. Had found more Benefit by thefe Remedies than any, though they had fpent upon her all the Money they could fpare. Has had no Fit a good while.

She had her Pills again, to be taken as before, and the *Elix. Vitriol.* twice a Day, alfo a perpetual Blifter to her left Arm, above the Elbow.

*June*

*June* 29. Has had no Fits, her Breath ſtill ſhort, her Digeſtion bad, is faint and low ſpirited, has ſeen no Appearance of the *Menſes* yet, and being coſtive,

I ordered her to take of our *Elect. deobſtr.* Nights and Mornings, the *aper.* occaſionally, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

*July* 30. Has gone on with the laſt Medicines ever ſince, has had no Fits, all the other Complaints ceaſed, and is now better than ever in her Life, excepting the Want of the *Catamenia.* Deſires to return Thanks to the Board, which was granted.

Her Blood being much mended by the Uſe of the Chalybeate Medicines, I ordered her to be blooded in the Foot, *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* to confirm her Cure, and in Caſe of

any

any Uneaſineſs on Account of the Want of her *Menſes* to come to me again.

But as I have not heard from her ſince, it is to be ſuppoſed ſhe became well in every Reſpect.

Till the Age of eight or nine ſhe had Fits every two or three Days, which may be attributed to the Tenderneſs of her Nerves, as on the other Hand the Diſtance between them from nine to fourteen and fifteen, to the Increaſe of her bodily Strength. But as about this Time the female Frame comes to Maturity, and the *Menſes* generally appear, the Seeds of latent Diſorders are alſo often brought to Ripeneſs and make their Appearance; and as the Orgaſm of the Juices runs high at this Time, the Fits ſhew'd themſelves with greater Vigour than before. The

The Symptoms are now aggravated with a ſudden falling down, and grinding of Teeth, which ſhews the Diſeaſe has now fixt its Seat in the Brain, and therefore is of the epileptic Order.

Her Complaint of Coſtiveneſs is common in nervous Diſorders, and her Thirſt and feveriſh Heat may proceed from a Defect in the Secretions and Excretions, the nervous Syſtem being deficient in its Functions, and in part to the Want of the *Menſes*: To which alſo may be attributed in a great Meaſure, the Pain at her Stomach, Low-ſpiritedneſs, Shortneſs of Breath, &c.

CASE

## CASE IV.

### *Epileptic Fits from Fright.*

ANN *Street*, aged twenty one, of a pale and languid Complexion, being two Years ago robbed upon the Road, was frightened into a Fit, in which ſhe continued near two Hours, as they, who were come to her Aſſiſtance, told her.

After that ſhe had a Fit every Day, nine Days ſucceſſively, and then every full and new Moon, being pretty well the Time between. She falls down ſuddenly without any Notice, had a Fit in the Yard at the *Infirmary*, whilſt ſhe waited to be received as an Out-patient, which was ſo ſtrong that ſeveral People could ſcarcely hold

her to prevent her doing herſelf a Miſchief, by the Violence of the Struggling. Her Senſes and Strength are ſo much impaired by them, that ſhe is not able to go to Service, which ſhe has been obliged to quit on that Account.

She had her *Menſes* regularly, but rather too abundant, 'till *Eaſter* laſt, ſince which Time they have ſtopt, and now ſhe is troubled with Sickneſs at Stomach, Shortneſs of Breath, and Pain in her left Side, below the *Coſtæ*.

The Fits come on with a great Faintneſs and Trembling all over, after that ſhe loſes her Senſes, and falls down, ſtruggling hard, and beating herſelf.

She alſo complains of a great Pain in the right Side of her Face, from

the

the Eye to the Teeth of that Jaw, which is come but lately, owing to a Cold, and has no Connexion with her nervous Diſorder.——Her *Alvus* is regular, but her Urine generally high coloured.

*Aug.* 9, 1745. The low Condition ſhe was in would not admit of Bleeding, I therefore ordered her to take one of our *Pil. aur.* two Nights following, a Doſe of purging Salts, the Morning after the ſecond Pill, and a Paregoric at Night after the Purge, and ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* between whiles.

*Aug.* 12. Found herſelf much relieved and lightſomer, had had no Fits ſince. I ordered her to take a Doſe of *Pil. fœt.* every other Night; the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day the intermediate Days, and ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* when faint. *Aug.*

*Aug.* 21. Has had no Fits, is very faint, has a violent Pain in her Head, but is not quite ſo dizzy. Has a better Appetite to her Victuals, but vomits them up ſtill, which Complaint however is not ſo bad as formerly.——The ſame Medicines were repeated.

*Aug.* 30. No Fits, is troubled with the Head-ach, but not ſo often, nor ſo violently as before. Her Appetite better, and comes on, though is but very weak yet.——Continued the laſt Preſcription, and *Pulv. Sternutator.* to be uſed Nights and Mornings.

*Sept.* 12. No Fits, her Appetite good, gathers Strength, and is pure hearty. Has ſeen a Shew of her *Menſes.* As her Blood was conſiderably mended, I now ordered her to be blooded in the Foot, and a

mercurial

mercurial Pill at Night, a Purge the Morning following, and ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* frequently to be taken, and in Caſe of Faintneſs.

*Sept.* 17. Finding herſelf quite well, ſhe returned Thanks to the Board; however to obviate all farther Difficulties in Regard to the *Menſes*, I ordered her ſome *Tinct. Hier. cum Tinct. Mart. Mynſ.* alſo a ſtomachic Tincture *cum Tinct. Helleb. nig.* to be uſed ſome Time, and bid her apply to me for farther Aſſiſtance, if ſhe found any Return of her Complaints: And as I have not heard from her ſince, conclude her perfectly cured.

There are ſeveral Inſtances in theſe Caſes of Fits being worſe about the Changes of the Moon. If this Planet

has ſo great an Effect upon the Macrocoſm, as to occaſion the Swelling and Falling of the Ocean, why may it not be ſuppoſed that ſhe has alſo ſome Influence on the Microcoſm, the human Body? according to the Opinion of the learned Dr. *Mead*, in his Treatiſe *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ*. It is true, all are not affected alike, neither are all Conſtitutions equally ſenſible of the Changes of the Weather.

This Patient's *Menſes* were at firſt too abundant, occaſioned probably by the violent Agitations from the Fits, and when the Blood was impoveriſhed they ſtopped. Then come on the common Symptoms of Obſtruction, as alſo a Pain below the left Ribs, which is often obſerved to accompany a Stoppage of the *Menſtrua*, and is perhaps

perhaps owing to a too great Fulneſs or Inlargement of the Spleen, from the Blood not circulating there ſo freely as it ought to do.

## CASE V.

ANN *Morly*, aged thirty one, about eight Years ago, on a ſudden, and without any external Cauſe, fell down in a Fit, in which ſhe continued about half an Hour, without any Struggling, her Face frequently changing red and pale during that Time. She had two or three of them in twenty four Hours for about a Month. Was bliſtered on the Head by the Advice of a Phyſician, and took various Medicines, which removed thoſe falling Fits. But is ſtill troubled with Syn-

copes, though leſs violent, which have followed her ever ſince pretty cloſe, and has generally now one in about two or three Days; they make her Countenance change very pale, attended with Pain in her Loins, and cold clammy Sweats, and uſually ſeize her in Bed towards Morning; when ſhe perceives them coming on, is obliged to get up to rouſe herſelf, which abates them in ſome Meaſure.

Has had her *Menſes* all the while very regular, but within theſe ſix Months laſt, too many of them; at that Time finds no Alteration in her Diſorder.

Her Urine is ſometimes very thick and high-coloured, at other Times very pale. Has loſt her Appetite, is frequently troubled with a Looſeneſs and Pain of the Bowels, and is grown

ſo

ſo weak, that ſhe is obliged to be led and ſupported like a Child.——Her Mother has ſpent all her Subſtance upon her, which is the Occaſion of their applying to this Charity.

*May* 13, 1745. Imagining that the Seat of her Diſorder was chiefly in the firſt Paſſages, though ſhe was very low, I ventured to order her a little *Calom.* to be purged off the next Morning by a gentle cooling Cathartic, a Paregoric at Night, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to be uſed when faint.

*May* 20. Was a little lightſomer after the Phyſick, but complained of a violent Pain in the Small of her Back, and makes but little Water, which is very thick.

Ordered *Pil. Balſam.* to be taken three Times a Day, with ſome *El.*

*Vitr. Mynſ.* in a Draught of Barley Water.

*June* 10. Faintings ſtill bad, alſo violent Pain in the Small of her Back, and Colic.——Ordered an Elect. with *Conſ. Cynoſb. Balſ. Locat.* and a little *Z. Z.* and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*June* 17. Fits better, but violent Pain from the left Kidney to the Groin, with Sickneſs at Stomach, and little Urine, high coloured.——*Menſes* too abundant, alſo Complaints of the Heart-burn.——Ordered *Jul. Cretac.* and a Mixture with *Balſ. Capiv.* Nights and Mornings.

*June* 24. Fits not ſo often, feels a great Uneaſineſs and Weight in the *Abdomen*, makes Urine in ſufficient Quantity.——Ordered an Emetic, a perpetual Bliſter to the Arm, *Empl.*

*de*

*de Galbano* to the *Abdomen*, and a diuretic Tincture in Barley Water.

*June* 29. Fits again very bad, *Abdomen* easier.—Ordered an Electuary, with *Valerian*, *Castor*, and a little *Z. Z.* three Times a Day, with a Julep with *Sal C. C.*

*July* 12. Fits better, but the nephritic Complaints returned with Sickness at Stomach.——Ordered an oily Mixture, with *Spir. Nitr. dulc.* and a little *Laud. liquid.* and a terebinthinate Clyster.

*Jul.* 19. No Fits, nephritic Complaints better, but not quite gone.—Had the former Mixture, and *Pil. fæt.* every other Night.

*July* 24. No Fits, nephritic Pains still very bad, Urine high coloured, and but little.——*Pil. Balsam.* three Times a Day, with *Mixt. Salin. cum*

*Succ. Limon. & Laud. liq. parva quantitate.*

*Aug.* 2. No Fits, nephritic Complaints better, great Uneaſineſs at Stomach, and Colic Pains in the Bowels.—Ordered a carminative Mixture, with a little *Laud. liquid.*

*Aug.* 21. No Fits, but Pain at Stomach, and in the Small of the Back.——Ordered a ſtrengthening Plaſter to her Back, and *Tinct. Stomach. Amar.* three Times a Day.

*Sept.* 6. Has had Fits, but not ſo bad as formerly; has Pain at Stomach, and no Appetite, makes Urine freely.——Ordered *Pil. Stomach. c. Gumm.* Nights and Mornings, and a Mixture of *Tinct. Stomach. Amar. & Cinnam.* twice or oftner a Day.

*Sept.* 12. No Fits, a great Weakneſs in her Back.——Ordered another

Plaſter

Plaſter to her Loins, and the laſt Stomach Mixture.

*Sept.* 23. No Fits, nor nephritic Complaints, is now able to walk about and do a little Work, thinks as ſhe grows ſtronger, the little Tremor which ſtill remains, will go off, and deſires to give Thanks, as ſhe did accordingly the 24th.——Ordered her ſome *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* to eſtabliſh her Cure.

This Caſe has in its Beginning the Appearance of an Epilepſy, though of the milder Sort, and the Syncopes ſhe laboured under, when ſhe firſt came to me, ſtill argue that the Origin of the Nerves is chiefly concerned.——The Diſorder begins in the Head, and often works off by the Bowels, in this it differs from the hyſteric

ſteric Fits, which generally begin in the *Abdomen*, and aſcend to the Head.

Her being ſeized in Bed towards Morning may be owing to this, that after a long horizontal Poſture, the Ventricles of the Brain, which in epileptic Caſes commonly are found to contain a Quantity of Water, may have accumulated of it enough, to preſs upon the Origin of the Nerves, and bring on the Diſorder: And by rouzing herſelf, and bringing the Body into an erect Situation, it is diſſipated in ſome Meaſure, and the Fit mitigated.

It is remarkable, that when the Fits were better after the Purge, the nephritic Complaints appeared, and when theſe were eaſier ſhe had her Fits again. And thus ſhe was viſited alter-

alternatively ſeveral Times, before the Cure was effected.

## CASE VI.

*JANE Britt*, fifteen Years old, of a ſpare Habit and ſallow Complexion, had never had the *Menſes*, was taken on *Whitſunday* 1745. (the Moon was full the next Morning at four o'Clock) going to kneel down at Church, with the Pariſh Children, of which ſhe is one, with a Choaking, cold Sweat, and Fainting, and then fell down in a Fit at once, ſtruggling, ſnapping, and biting at every Thing that came near her, with entire Loſs of her Senſes; which Fit laſted near one Hour and half, before ſhe came to herſelf. And having gradually recovered from the

Faintneſs which ſhe felt after the Fit, continued well 'till *Sunday* the 16th of *June*, when ſhe had one of theſe Fits, in the Street, which laſted half an Hour, and ſince has had ſeveral to this Day 18. (the Moon changing to new this Morning) complaining at preſent of a violent Headach, *Vertigo*, Sickneſs at Stomach, and univerſal Languor.

I ordered her to loſe a little Blood, a Bliſter in the Neck, a Doſe of *Pil. fœt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*June* 21. She was admitted into the Houſe, her Bliſter diſcharged very well, the Pills had operated kindly, the *Elix. Vitr.* ſate eaſy upon her Stomach, and ſhe thought herſelf relieved every Way.——The Pills and Drops continued.

*June*

*June* 24. Had ſeveral Fits ſince I ſaw her laſt, but ſhorter, and not ſo ſtrong, her Head not ſo much affected, complains of a Pain in her Limbs; which I imagining proceeded from the Efforts of Struggling, had no particular Regard to, but bid her go on as before.

*July* 1. Had no Fits ſince my laſt Preſcription, but the Sickneſs at Stomach, and *Vertigo* had troubled her ſeveral Times within theſe two Days. Pain of her Limbs better.—I ordered her to loſe ſome Blood from the Foot, and to continue her Medicines.

*July* 2. The Pain of her Limbs being quite gone, and having had but a ſlight Attack of a Fit Yeſterday Afternoon (this Day the Moon changes to full) thought herſelf well enough to return Thanks, and continue an

Out-

Out-patient to compleat her Cure; for which End ſhe had ſome of the aforeſaid Medicines with her.

*July* 11. She came as an Out-patient, has had no Fits, but complains of a great Pain of her Head and Stomach. She had the *Pil. fœt.* and ſome of our *Tinct. amar. comp.*

*July* 23. Has had no Fits, but a Working in her Bowels all laſt Week like Fits, attended with frequent Shivering, but no Struggling. She had been coſtive moſt Part of the Week, and as I attributed the Working in her Bowels chiefly to the purgative Quality of the Pills not taking Effect, I ordered her to take ſome *Tinct. jalap.* in the Morning after the Pills, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myſ.* the Days between.

*Aug.* 20. Her laſt Medicines had held out almoſt to this Time. Has had no Fits, and found the Working of her Bowels gone off with the laſt preſcribed Medicines, and is now well in every Reſpect. I ordered her to continue theſe Medicines a little longer to confirm her Cure.

This Girl was cured of her Fits, before ſhe had any Appearance of her *Menſes*, but as her Complexion began to be florid, and her Blood ſeemed to be much mended, I am inclinable to think ſhe had them ſoon, or has no Complaint on that Account, elſe I ſhould probably have heard from her ſince.

Theſe Fits were of the epileptic Sort, and there is ſome Reaſon to ſuppoſe they were hereditary, and that the Seeds of the Diſtemper had lain

lain dormant in the Habit 'till the Age of Puberty, to which ſhe was now arrived: For her Father, ſhe told me, has had epileptic Fits many Years, and her Siſter, who is twenty ſix Years old, has had them from her Infancy.

## CASE VII.

*Fits from a frightful Dream.*

*Eliz. Carey*, aged twenty two, of a robuſt Habit of Body, about twelve Months ago waked out of a frightful Dream, upon which ſhe preſently felt a great Commotion in her Bowels and Stomach, fell into a Fit, ſcreaming, ſtruggling, clenching her Hands, and beating her Stomach and Breaſt in ſuch a Manner, that three

three or four Women could hardly keep her from hurting herſelf. She drew her Legs up behind to ſuch a Degree, that her Mother feared, ſhe would never have the Uſe of them again. In this Manner ſhe continued quite ſenſeleſs, for about two Hours; at the End of the Fit ſhe voided her Urine involuntarily, and afterwards was a conſiderable Time very faint and languid, with Loſs of Appetite and Tremor.

Theſe Fits followed her at that Time about a Week, ſo that ſhe had commonly ſeveral in a Day; and at firſt but very little Interval between. ——After that ſhe was two Months without them; then about three Months, and thus has had them ſince from Time to Time, the leaſt Fright or Surpriſe occaſioning them: Ob-

ſerved that ſhe was always worſe at the periodical Return of the *Menſes*, which ſhe had regularly.

She alſo complained of a muſcular Pain in the left Side, the lower Part of the *Coſtæ*, which firſt had ſeized her about three Years ſince, after violent Exerciſe, attended with a Shortneſs of Breath, but no Cough. Whenever ſhe walked faſt, or uſed any ſtrong Motion, it grew troubleſome, was eaſieſt when kept herſelf quiet, and ſo ill at firſt lying down in Bed, that ſhe could hardly draw Breath, but after ſome Reſt grew eaſier.——She had been blooded for it ſeveral Times, and found herſelf always better after.

She came a Petitioner to the *Infirmary the* 8th of *May*, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, and ſix

mercurial

mercurial Pills, to take one Nights and Mornings, and the Morning of the laſt Pill the Purging Powder and Cathartic Salt, and the Night after the Operation of the Cathartic a paregoric Bolus; imagining that the Pain in her Side proceeded from a ſcorbutic Obſtruction in the Veſſels of the Part affected, and which was the moſt urgent Complaint, eſpecially as I knew that Purging could be no Detriment in ſuch a replete Habit in Regard to her Fits, but rather be a Preparative for proper Medicines hereafter to remove them.——I alſo propoſed a Bliſter upon the painful Part, which was omitted, upon her aſſuring me, that ſhe had had ſome, but that they occaſioned ſuch a Heat and Throbbing, that it almoſt ſtopt her Breath.

*May* 13. Complained of being low and faint, and that the Pain of her Side was ſtill very troubleſome. I ordered her a Doſe of the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and take two Spoonsful twice or three Times a Day of an oily Mixture *cum Sal. C. C. & Laud. liq.*

*May* 15. The Pain ſtill very bad and had her Fits, ſhe had beſides the foregoing Medicines *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to take when her Dizineſs, of which ſhe complained, was troubleſome, or when ſhe imagined a Fit was coming on.

*May* 22. The Pain ſtill very bad at Nights, with a great Tremor left after the Fits. I ordered her a Doſe of the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and a paregoric Pill every Night going to Reſt, to ſilence the Pain; and

a Mix-

a Mixture of *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig. cum Aff. & Laud. liq.* to take a Spoonful three or four Times a Day.

*May* 30. Was better of her Fits, for a Gun going off close by her, only made her very sick, and put her into a great Tremor, but had no Fit, which otherwise would have ensued even from a less Surprise.——I ordered Bleeding, it being near the full Moon, and as she complained of such a Weakness at Stomach, that she brought up her Medicines, to take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* a Spoonful Nights and Mornings, and a Tea Spoonful of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff. & Laud. liq.* twice or three Times a Day in a Glass of fair Water.

*June* 4. The Sickness still continuing, she had again the *Tinct. Cath.*

with ſome *Tinct. Mart. Mynſ.* and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Laud. liq.* to be taken as before.

*June* 7. The Sickneſs at Stomach was ſomewhat abated, but ſhe now complained of a great Heart-burn. I preſcribed again the *Tinct. Cath. cum Tinct. Mart.* as before, and the *Jul. Cret. Bat.* with a ſmall Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to take frequently in a Day. She had had no Fits, but as ſhe was troubled with a great Dizineſs of the Head, ſhe loſt again about eight Ounces of Blood.——The Pain of her Side was better.

*June* 14. Had no Fit, Pain of her Side well, her Dizineſs and Heart-burn better.——She had the Tincture and Julep as before.

*June* 25. Being almoſt well, I ordered the laſt Medicines once more.

*July*

*July* 2. She came to return Thanks; it being about the Change of the Moon, I adviſed her to be blooded, and to take of the *Pil. Ruff.* a Doſe every other Night for ſix or ſeven Times, and of the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day in a Glaſs of Water, to confirm the Cure.

The waking out of a frightful Dream, and Convulſions immediately enſuing upon it, might argue that the Diſorder took its Riſe in the Brain, and therefore ſhould be ſtiled epileptic. However, as it may be ſuppoſed the Beginning of it was in the *plexus* of the epigaſtric Nerves, which by Conſent impreſſed thoſe frightful Ideas upon the Brain, and as the Tragedy was chiefly tranſacted in the inferior Parts of the Body, the crural Nerves being more violently contracted than

thoſe of the Arms, we will call theſe Fits of the mixt Sort.

The involuntary Emiſſion of Urine, or of the *Fæces*, is commonly numbered among the Symptoms of the Epilepſy, becauſe it ſhews ſo great a Relaxation in the Nerves of thoſe Parts, as is ſeldom met with in hyſteric Fits. And her being afterwards a conſiderable Time very faint and languid, with Loſs of Appetite and Tremor, ſtill farther confirms the Greatneſs of the Fatigue the Nerves had undergone.

She was worſe about the Time of the *Menſes*, not on Account of the Diſcharge, becauſe Bleeding commonly relieved her, but the Orgaſm happening at that Time in the *Abdomen*, may eaſily be ſuppoſed to diſturb the Nerves, which were tender by being

ſo

ſo often vellicated by thoſe violent Spaſms.

The Pain of her Side, as it was previous to theſe Fits, ſo it had no Concern with them, but ſeemed to be of the hot ſcurvy Kind, contracted from overheating her Blood, and which the Heat of the *Cantharides* rather exaſperated, but was mitigated, when the Humors were kept in a quiet State, and with gentle Perſpiration by the Warmth of the Bed.

## CASE VIII.

### *Fits after a Fever.*

*Eliz. Maccullow,* a ſingle Woman, aged about twenty two, of a pale Complexion, but pretty robuſt Habit, was taken ill in *January*

*nuary* laſt at Service of a Fever with Eruptions, a more particular Account ſhe could not give of that Illneſs, for which ſhe was removed to a Relation's Houſe. And being recovered of the Fever, ſhe was afflicted with a Heavineſs of the Head, and Uneaſineſs all over, with Oppreſſion at Stomach, which ſoon was followed by Faintings. This Diſorder increaſed upon her to that Degree, that from Time to Time ſhe had ſtrong Convulſion Fits, and between whiles Faintings, which rendered her incapable of going to Service: She had no Complaint to make of the *Menſes*; and though ſhe had taken various Medicines, continued in this State 'till ſhe came to the *Infirmary*, which was the 25th of *March* laſt.

As

As I imagined the febrile Matter had not been duly discharged, but left a Load upon the nervous System, I began with Evacuation in the following Manner: I ordered a small Dose of Calomel for two Nights running, and to purge it off the third Morning, and a paregoric Bolus at Night. She had at the same Time some of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* with a small Proportion of *Laud. liq.* of which she was ordered to take two or three Times every Day, or when faint.

*March* 29. She finding herself somewhat relieved by the former Medicines, I ordered her the same again.

*April* 1. She had them once more.

*Apr.* 5. She had had but a slight Return of a Fit, but finding herself pretty much weakened with the Purg-

ing, and afflicted with a Tremor, ſome Faintings between whiles, and Sickneſs at Stomach, I ordered her the *Pil. fœt.* to take a Doſe of them every other Night, and ſome of the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day; to brace up the Stomach and nervous Syſtem.

*Apr.* 9. She had more of the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* to be taken as before; ſhe finding her nervous Weakneſs and Complaint of the Stomach much relieved.

*Apr.* 19. As theſe Medicines agreed with her, and her Diſorder decreaſed, I ordered them to be continued.

*Apr.* 24. She went on mending, and had the ſame Preſcription again.

*May* 1. Had had no Convulſion Fit, but complained of a great Dizzineſs of the Head, and Uneaſineſs

all

all over. I ordered the *Pil. fœt.* to be repeated as before, and a Mixture with *Sal. Vol. C. C. Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* and a ſmall Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to be taken twice a Day, or at any Time when the Diſorder was vehement upon her.

*May* 8. Her Complaint was conſiderably abated by the laſt Medicines, therefore went on with them.

*May* 13. She found herſelf well, ſave that ſhe was very weak, and that any Hurry or Surpriſe ſtill ſeemed to have ſome Effect upon her. I ordered an Electuary *cum Cort. Peruv. & Mart.* to be taken Nights and Mornings, and ſome of the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day, to brace up the relaxed Fibres and Nerves, which had the deſired Effect. For on the 29th of *May* ſhe came and returned

returned Thanks to the Board of the weekly Committee for her Cure; and in *June* following I saw her with another Patient, whom she accompanied to the *Infirmary*, when she told me with a chearful Countenance, that she had continued ever since, and was now, perfectly well.

Although it is not easy to determine, in what Part of the nervous System the febrile *saburra* had been deposited, yet it is highly probable, from Appearance, that it accumulated at Times in the Brain, because the Scene had commonly its Beginning in the Head, and that therefore in Time it probably would have become truly epileptick.

CASE

## CASE IX.

### *Fits from Pregnancy.*

ANN *Roe*, aged twenty eight, of a healthy and robuſt Conſtitution, who had miſſed her *Menſes* from the Time ſhe was married, which was between two and three Months, was taken ſuddenly with a Fit, clinching her Hands, beating her Stomach and Head, and ſtruggling ſo hard with her Body and Legs, that ſeveral People could hardly keep her from doing herſelf Hurt. She had never had any Fits before.

When I ſaw her (which was the 22d of *Decemb.* 1744.) ſhe had been from one Fit into another near eighteen Hours. They had given her

*Tinct.*

*Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* and *Sp. C. C.* but inſtead of diminiſhing, the Fits grew ſtronger, and ſo frequent, that ſhe had ſcarcely Interval enough now to take any Thing, or to make any rational Anſwer; but when ſhe was aſked where her Pain was, ſhe pointed to the Head and Stomach.

I ordered her a Doſe of the *Tinct. Hier.* with a few Grains of *Sal. C. C.* and ſome Drops of *Tinct. theb.* to be given as ſoon as poſſible, to bleed her largely in the Arm, and to apply a Bliſter on the Head as ſoon as it was practicable; and a Solution of the *G. Ammon.* with ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to be taken a Spoonful frequently.

*Dec.* 24. She had been blooded, the Bliſter applied, and the purging Mixture operated very well; the Fits

had

had almoſt left her, and as ſhe ſtill complained of a violent Pain in her Head and Stomach, I ordered her the ſame Mixture again, to take a Spoonful Nights and Mornings, and to continue the Solution of the *G. Ammon.* as before.

*Dec.* 31. The Fits were quite gone; but as ſhe complained of a great Uneaſineſs all over, and Tremor, and the Pain of the Stomach and Head ſtill was troubleſome, the ſame Medicines were ordered once more.

She ſaid ſhe perceived no Dizzineſs at all in her Head, but that it felt weak and light, which ſhe imagined might be owing to the great Diſcharge from the Bliſter, therefore prayed to have it dry'd up, which I accordingly conſented to.

*Jan.* 11. An Uneaſineſs at Stomach, Want of Appetite and Laſſitude were now the only Complaints remaining, I therefore preſcribed a Doſe of *Pil. Ruff.* to be taken every other Night, and ſome of the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day in a Glaſs of fair Water.

*Jan.* 21. She had the laſt Medicines again, and a little while after that ſhe came and returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

She continued well 'till *June*, when I heard ſhe had her Fits again, but that the good Women were not for her taking any Medicines, imagining that the Fits were owing to her Pregnancy, ſhe being then again with Child, and that ſhe muſt miſcarry now, as ſhe had done the former Time, in order to get rid of her Fits,

judging

judging her on this Account incapable of bearing Children.

Thus a great deal of Miſchief is daily done by Perſons who take upon them to give their Opinion in Diſeaſes, when they have not the leaſt Pretenſion to any Skill in Phyſick.

For it is not improbable, a Woman in theſe Circumſtances might be conducted through her Pregnancy, by ſeaſonable Bleedings, proper Evacuations and Corroborants, made uſe of, the firſt three or four Months eſpecially, which are frequently attended with various Difficulties, and which being well got over, the Remainder commonly paſs away with Eaſe and Safety.

Theſe Fits at firſt Sight ſeem to come under the Denomination of Hyſteric, in as much as they probably

proceed from the Enlargement of the Womb, occaſioning a Preſſure upon the *Plexus meſentericus*, or neighbouring Nerves or Membranes. But as the Tragedy was play'd off from the Head, where ſhe felt great Pain, I think they are not improperly called Epileptic, although brought on from a diſtant Cauſe. Add to this, that ſhe alſo pointed at the Stomach, and beat herſelf there with both her Hands clenched, as perſons in epileptic Fits uſually do.——The epileptic Fit, proceeding from the Preſſure of a *Ganglium* upon a Nerve in the Leg, mentioned in the Introduction, illuſtrates this Caſe ſufficiently.

## CASE X.

### *Hereditary Syncope.*

MARY *Lovell*, aged twenty three, had been ſubject to fainting Fits from her Birth. Her Mother had ſuch Fits from a Fright, whilſt ſhe was pregnant with her, and had one at the Time of Delivery, and ſhe, the Child, was in one, as ſhe was told, when ſhe came into the World.

At firſt coming on, ſhe feels as if prick'd with Pins and Needles, all over her Fleſh, afterwards enſues ſuch a violent Pain at Stomach, that to eaſe herſelf, ſhe could tear herſelf open, as ſhe expreſſed it. Then her Head is ſeized with a confuſed Pain,

upon which ſhe loſes her Senſes, faints, and almoſt dies away, for her Countenance turns ghaſtly, her Lips black, the Noſe pinched in, her Eyes ſhut, and her Body and Limbs lie motionleſs and ſtreth'd out as if dead for about a Quarter of an Hour.— Then ſhe comes to herſelf again by Degrees, but remains with a Sickneſs at Stomach, trembling all over, and is very weak and ill, her Senſes almoſt ſtupified, for a Day or two after.—— She has ſtrove againſt them, being told it was owing to a fanciful Apprehenſion, with walking about, when ſhe found them coming on, taking off her Cloaths, unlacing her Stays, *&c.* but all to no Effect.

Five Years ago, ſhe had the tertian Ague, for about three Months, during which Time ſhe uſually had

two

two or three of theſe Fits on her ill Days.

About the Age of ſixteen her *Menſes* appeared, when ſhe found no Amendment of her Fits, but that ſhe was in great Pain all over, about the Time of their Return, more than is uſual for other Women to be.

Obſerved, that a hard Days Work, too much Walking, or any other Fatigue, great Mirth, taking Cold, or Vexation, would bring them on.—— The laſt ſhe had was about a Month ago.——Two Years ſince ſhe has laboured almoſt under a continual Working and Pain at Stomach, eſpecially after Eating, when with breaking Wind upwards, ſhe frequently voides her Victuals by Mouthfuls.—— She alſo complains of Pains in her Arms and Legs, which renders them

ſtiff and almoſt uſeleſs, and is in ſuch Miſery when in Bed, that ſhe is frequently obliged to get up.——She has her *Menſtrua* regularly, though but ſparingly; her *Alvus* orderly, and Urine generally pale. She has loſt Fleſh and Strength, to ſuch a Degree, that ſhe apprehends herſelf to be in a Conſumption, and on Account of her Fits, has frequently been obliged to quit her Service, which is her Caſe at preſent.

*June* 1, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Bliſter in the Neck, to take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, and a ſtomachic Tincture about eleven in the Forenoon, and at ſix in the Afternoon.

*June* 4. Had no Fits, brings up her Aliments, and has ſtill a great Uneaſineſs at Stomach. The Pains

of

of her Limbs not much mitigated. I ordered the *Tinct. Cathol.* and ſtomachic Tincture to be continued.

*June* 12. No Fits, the Rheumatic Pains eaſier, reſts better; the Vomiting better, ſtill very ſick at Stomach. ——Ordered a perpetual Bliſter on the left Arm, the *Tinct. Cathol.* as before, and the *Elix. Vitr.* in Lieu of the Stomach Tincture, imagining her Stomach to be now in a Condition to bear the Acid, which I apprehended before might be too pungent.

*June* 14. No Fits, the Pain of her Limbs almoſt well, the Vomiting ſtopt, Sickneſs at Stomach and Appetite better; is ſtill very faint, though alſo in this Reſpect not ſo bad as before. Went on with the laſt Medicines.

*June*

*June* 21. As ſhe mended, and the Medicines agreed very well, I ordered them to be repeated.

*June* 24. No Fits, was better of all the former Diſorders, complained ſhe was greatly afflicted with the *fluor albus*, which weaken'd her extremely. I ordered a ſtrengthening Plaſter to her Loins, and to take of our corroborating Pills three Times a Day, with ſome of the ſtomachic Tincture.

*June* 26. No Fits, Head and Stomach better, but the *fluor albus* ſtill very bad, and complained of a great Uneaſineſs and Tremor. She had the *Lac Ammoniacum cum Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to take between whiles, and the Pills and Bitter as before.

*June* 28. No Fits, Head and Stomach better; *fluor albus* better. The laſt Medicines were continued. *July*

*July* 1. No Fits, Head and Stomach well; *fluor albus* continued mending. Went on as before.

*July* 2. Continued in a fine Way, returned Thanks to the Board, and had her Medicines with her to perfect her Cure as an Out-patient, which I ordered her to do at leaſt a Month longer, to ſee whether ſhe remained free from her Fits three Months, their longeſt Diſtance, that ſhe might be aſſured of a Cure. But as I have not ſeen her to this Day, the 24th of *May*, 1746. I conclude ſhe has been well ever ſince.

Here is an hyſterical Caſe, repreſenting the human Frame under moſt diſmal Circumſtances. It is hereditary and ſo rooted in the Habit, that it begins in the extreme Filaments

laments of the Nerves, the peccant Matter being accumulated in a Period of Time, and the Conſtitution not being vigorous enough to throw it off by the Pores, it occaſions on the Surface the Senſation of pricking of Pins; and when it is abſorbed into the Habit, it firſt exerts its Fury upon the nervous Coat of the Stomach, then attacks the Brain, and after that diſplays the horrid Scene over the whole Body, depriving it of all viſible Motion, except the Vibration of the Arteries. And that this is alſo greatly hindered, appears from the ghaſtly and corps-like Appearance in the Face.

The above Theory is confirmed by the frequent Repetition of them during her tertian Ague, when inſenſible Perſpiration is very deficient,

as alſo that hard Exerciſe, Paſſions of the Mind, and taking Cold, which have the ſame Effect, bring them on.

The Weakneſs at her Stomach ſhews how greatly the nervous Syſtem had been debilitated by the long Vexation of theſe Fits, which is confirmed by the ſparing *Menſtrua*, Loſs of Fleſh, Strength, and general Decay.

She alſo complains of Rheumatic Pains in her Limbs, which her nervous Weakneſs had ſo far aggravated that ſhe had almoſt loſt the Uſe of them.

The Uterine Veſſels were alſo ſo much debilitated by the Violence of this nervous Complaint, that ſhe had the *fluor albus* to a great Degree; which was however the eaſier to cure, the Nerves being made ſtronger, by the Remedies made uſe of in this Proceſs.

CASE

## CASE XI.

A Servant Maid about eighteen, of a ſtrong Habit, and healthy Conſtitution, was taken ſuddenly with Fits, beating herſelf, ſtruggling with her Body and Legs, and working her Head backwards with ſuch Violence, that ſeveral Men were tired with holding her, to prevent her doing herſelf a Miſchief. She ſcreamed, foamed at Mouth, clenched her Jaws and Hands, and the Intervals were ſo ſhort, that ſhe had not Time to come to underſtand what was ſaid to her, or to take any Thing; neither was it poſſible to bleed her, or to uſe any other Means, but applying externally Spirit of Hartſhorn, cold Water, burning of Feathers under her No-

ſtrils, &c. Notwithſtanding which ſhe continued in this Condition near eight Hours, when ſhe gradually came to herſelf. Then ſhe was blooded, and took a Doſe of *Tinct. Hier.* with ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum aſſa*, which operated very well, and a Bliſter was applied to her Back.—— After this ſhe took ſome of the *Pil. fœt.* Nights and Mornings, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day, which was continued ſome Time; ſince that ſhe has never had the leaſt Appearance of any Fits or nervous Diſorder, which is near five Years ſince.

This young Woman was very well in the Morning, eat her Dinner as uſual, and the Fits did not ſeize her till between ſix and ſeven in the Evening. All that I could learn concerning the Cauſe of them was, that

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in the Afternoon, there being ſome *Burton* Ale bottling off, ſhe had drunk of it; yet not ſo much as to intoxicate her, for ſhe had waited at Tea-table very well. Whether this Liquor, which is very windy, and ſubject to a ſtrong Fermentation, could by dilating the Stomach beyond its natural Capacity, bring on thoſe violent Spaſms, or whether they were occaſioned by its volatile and acrimonious Particles ſtimulating the nervous Syſtem, or both, I leave to the Judgment of the Reader.

## CASE XII.

A Man of about fifty, of a ſtrong and replete Habit, a Drinker of ſtrong Beer and Spirituous Liquors, had daily twelve or more Convulſions, which

which affected his whole Body. His Eyes remained open and fixt, he loſt his Speech during that Time, had a Contraction in both his Hands, and could not ſtand upon his Legs, but underſtood all that was ſaid. The Fits came on with an Uneaſineſs in the *Hypochondrium*, a nauſeating at Stomach, ſucceeded by a copious driveling of Spittle from his Mouth. They laſted about a Quarter of an Hour; when gone off he recovered his Speech, which however was very much impaired by the frequent Return of his Fits.

He had already, by the Apothecary's Directions, been blooded, taken ſeveral Doſes of *Tinct. Sacr.* alſo nervous Medicines, as *Aſſ. fœt. Valer. Sal. Succin. &c.* but found no Amendment.

Imagining that the Juices being too viſcid and abundant, might by their Preſſure and Want of free Circulation check the Courſe of the nervous Fluid, and occaſion theſe Spaſms, I directed my firſt Intention to emptying and thinning them. That being effected, a Courſe of nervous, and corroborating Medicines might take Place and compleat the Cure. I therefore ordered him to loſe ſome Blood from the Foot, then to take a Bolus with Calomel, Valerian, and *Conſ. Anth.* two Nights following, and to purge it off the third Morning with ſome of the *Pil. Belloſt*, and a Paregoric at Night.

After this Proceſs he was abundantly better, he had now only one or two Fits in a Day, and thoſe not ſo ſtrong as before: His Speech was

mended,

mended, as alſo his Memory, which he had almoſt loſt, and made him look like an Ideot.——I ordered this Courſe to be repeated, and as he complained of a Stiffneſs in his Tongue, I directed thirty or forty Drops of *Spir. Lav. C.* to be dropt upon a Lump of Sugar, and to be ſwallowed gradually, and to take as much Horſe Radiſh and Muſtard with his Eatables as he could.

The Fits being intirely removed by this Means, and his Speech recovered, I preſcribed a Courſe of nervous and corroborating Medicines to eſtabliſh the Cure.

Mercury is commonly look'd upon as injurious to the Nerves, but that it is of excellent Service in ſome of theſe Caſes, when applied judiciouſly, may be collected from this, the

following Case, and many other Instances.

## CASE XIII.

### *Universal Spasms about the Time of the* Menses *going off.*

A Woman of a robust Habit was, in *Decemb.* 1744, taken in Bed, being very well the Day before, with a sudden Starting, and convulsive Contractions of the whole Body, without Loss of her Senses, which lasted but a Moment, but was so violent, that the Bed crack'd under her, and returned so frequently, that the Apothecary would not undertake to bleed her, for Fear of doing her an Injury with his Lancet. He therefore gave her a Dose of *Tinct. Sacr.* and for two or three Days after *G. Assæ Ammon. Castor.* and Volatile Medi-

Medicines, and applied a Bliſter to her Back.

When I came to her, I found her ſitting in her Chair, and whilſt I was enquiring into the Nature of her Caſe, ſhe had a Fit almoſt every Minute. She complained of no Head-ach or *Vertigo*, or Sickneſs at Stomach, or any Pain at all. She could uſe her Limbs during the Intervals very well all over, neither was ſhe ſenſible where theſe ſudden Spaſms had their Beginning.

She was about forty ſix Years old, the *Menſtrua* had been dodging her for ſome Time; was pretty corpulent, a ſober Liver, and continued having a good Appetite.

I judging in this Caſe as in the former, that a *Plethora* and Viſcidity of the Juices might give Riſe to theſe

Spaſms, ordered her to take a *Bol.* with *Calom.* at Night, a Cathartic Draught the Morning following, and a Paregoric with ſome *Tinct. Caſt.* the Night after the Purge.

The Day after, if her Fits were leſs, and her Arms or Legs could be kept ſteady enough, to take away twelve or fourteen Ounces of Blood, and for two Days following a Draught with *G. Aſſ. fœt. & Ammon.* every five or ſix Hours.

The third Night the Calomel Bolus again, the Purging Potion the Morning following, and the Paregoric Draught at Night.

The Day of this ſecond Purge I went to ſee her again in the Afternoon, and found that the Cathartic had operated very well, that ſhe had been blooded, and taken the other

Medi-

Medicines, and was ſo much mended, that this Day ſhe had but two or three Fits, and thoſe but very ſlight ones.

I ordered the ſame Courſe to be repeated once more, and afterwards, according as ſhe found herſelf, to take the Bol. and Cathartic Potion, once or twice a Week.

She was for ſome Days, as I was informed, quite well, but afterwards relapſed. As I was not conſulted any more, I cannot ſay what it was owing to; though from the Succeſs we had in checking the Fits, one might reaſonably be induced to imagine that ſome ſuch Courſe purſued, with Care, would in Time have effected a Cure.

## CASE XIV.

### *Hyſteric Fits about the Time of the* Menſtrua *going off.*

HAnnah *Hartwell*, forty four Years old, had been taken about a Month ago with Giddineſs and Numbneſs of the Head, of which ſhe was relieved by Bleeding. After that was taken with a Tremor all over, inward Fluttering, Sinking and Faintings, Pain at Stomach, Reaching and Spitting abundantly, eſpecially in the Morning getting out of Bed, white frothy Flegm (to uſe her own Expreſſion) like Milk from the Cow. She had loſt her Appetite, was waſted, and had not ſeen her *Menſes* about ſix Months laſt paſt.

*May*

*May* 20, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Calomel Pill at Night, the purging Salts the Morning following, a Paregoric at Night, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* to be taken when faint.

*May* 22. Though the Evacuation had ſunk her a little, ſhe found herſelf relieved.——Ordered now *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and a Mixture with *Lac Ammon.* ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to be uſed two or three Times a Day.

*June* 5. Had ſeen her *Menſes* the 29th paſt, ſince which has found her Spirits greatly revived. Her Trembling ſtill very troubleſome at Times, alſo Shaking of her Legs, ſo that her Knees beat againſt each other, with Reaching and Gaping, as if her Jaws were to be ſplit, and Dizineſs of

the

the Head. The laſt Medicines having agreed very well, ordered them to be repeated.

*June* 14. Having got a Cold, is rather worſe again, complains of Sickneſs and Swelling at Stomach.

Ordered *Mixt. Cath. cum Tinct. Mart. Mynſ.* to be taken Night and Morning, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* frequently.

*June* 17. No fainting Fits, is low-ſpirited, complains of a Snapping in her Head at Night, and working as if it were coming to Pieces.—As ſhe complained of Coſtiveneſs, I added to the Mixture ſome *Tinct. jalap.* the *Tinct. fulig.* as before, and a Bliſter in her Neck.

*June* 24. Spitting much better, Fits don't laſt ſo long, Sighing troubleſome, and is low-ſpirited.——Ordered the laſt Medicines again. *July*

*July* 3. The 30th paſt, and firſt preſent Month, had ſeveral ſtruggling Fits, occaſioned by a Fright.——Ordered *Pil. Epilept.* three Times a Day, with ſome *El. Vitr. Mynſ.* and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* occaſionally.

*July* 15. Had one Fit ſince laſt Preſcription, is very low and faint, Palpitation of the Heart very troubleſome, finds herſelf beſt after Purging.——Ordered *V. S.* a Calomel Pill at Night, a Purge next Morning, a Paregoric at Night, and a perpetual Bliſter on the Arm.

*July* 19. Had one Fit yeſterday, but ſhorter and not ſo ſtrong, Palpitation of the Heart better, is not ſo low and faint.——Ordered a Calomel Pill two Nights following, and the Cathartic the third Morning; alſo *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to be uſed frequently.

*July*

*July* 26. No Fits, has Trembling and Horrors upon her Spirits, and Sinking at Stomach; the Purge as before, and a bitter Mixture to be taken twice a Day.

*Aug.* 2. Had ſeveral Attacks, but no Fits; her Spirits, Appetite and Strength better; ſighing, ſtill troubleſome, but not ſo bad.—Had the laſt Medicines again, alſo *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to be taken when faint.

*Aug.* 12. Had a ſlight Fit two Days ago, ſtill very uneaſy at Stomach, complains of the *fluor albus*, with great Weakneſs and Pain in the Small of her Back. Ordered *Tinct. Cath.* Nights and Mornings, *El. Vitr.* twice a Day, and a corroborating Plaſter to her Back.

*Aug.* 19. Had a violent Head-ach laſt Week before the *Menſes* came down,

down, which is better ſince; had alſo four Days running ſome ſlight Fits, her Fleſh feels numb'd all over; Spitting and Stomach better.

Ordered another Bliſter in the Arm, *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, ſome *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, ſhe being very hard to move, and the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* as before.

*Aug.* 26. No Fits, Head-ach very bad, Numbneſs better, is very faint and low.——Ordered her to go on with the ſame Medicines.

*Sept.* 6. Had one ſtruggling Fit the 3d, very ſlight, Fainting much better, has Pain and Swelling at Stomach.—Went on as before.

*Sept.* 24. Had no Fits a pretty while, and well of all Complaints, ſave a little Tremor.——Deſired to

return Thanks to the Board.——Ordered *V. S.* and the laſt Medicines again to perfect her Cure.

The Length of this Proceſs doubtleſs was greatly owing to her Poverty, ſhe not having the Means of indulging the Operation of her Medicines, as the Rich may; to the Fretting on Account of her mean Circumſtances, and the critical Time of her Conſtitution, the going off of the *Menſes*.

## CASE XXV.

*Palſy, with Sight, Hearing, and Underſtanding impaired, from external Injury.*

*David Manſon*, aged forty three, of a healthy Conſtitution and robuſt Habit, about ten Months ago

received a Blow on the right *Os Zygoma*, which ſtunned him ſo that he fell down on the Ground. When he was taken up they found that he had loſt his Speech, his Underſtanding and Memory, alſo partly his Sight and Hearing, with Numbneſs all over, ſo that he appeared like a Natural or Ideot. He alſo at the ſame Time was deprived of the Uſe of his right Arm, that Leg was alſo ſo much affected, that he walked with a good deal of Difficulty. A few Days after the Accident, a Pain ſeized the left Side of his Head, about the *Os Bregmatis*, where he received no Hurt, which was conſtant, and ſometimes ſo exquiſite, that he thought it would make him raving mad. He had been blooded and taken Medicines from an Apothecary, but to little Purpoſe.

When

When he came to the *Infirmary*, on the 5th of *July*, 1745. his Wife attended him to tell me his Caſe, he not being capable of doing it himſelf, for want of Underſtanding, as well as of his Speech, which however he had recovered ſo far as to be able to utter a few Monoſyllables, though but imperfectly.——His Appetite was all the while pretty good, but his *Alvus* generally coſtive.

I ordered him to be blooded, a Bliſter to the Nape of his Neck, ſome of the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and as of late he had been very coſtive a purging Mixture the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* three Times a Day the intermediate Days.

*July* 12. The Pain of his Head was eaſier, his Speech freer, his Arm

and

and Leg not ſo lame, and his Sight and Underſtanding better. But he complained of a new Pain, which was in the Small of his Back, attended with ſome Difficulty of making Water. As this was but lately come, when the Bliſter was almoſt dried up, I did not attribute it to the Effect of the *Cantharides*, but rather to a Tranſlation of the peccant Matter from the nervous Syſtem upon the urinary Veſſels, which I have obſerved has happened to ſeveral of my Patients under nervous Complaints, when they came to be on the mending Hand.

The former Medicines were continued, and for his new Diſorder I preſcribed an oily Mixture with ſome *Spir. Nitr. d.* and a ſmall Proportion of *Laud. liq.*

*July* 22. He was ſo far recovered that he came alone, being now able to ſpeak for himſelf. He had the Pills and purging Mixture again; but as the Pain of his Back, and Difficulty of Urine were not much mended, he was blooded again, and had a Mixture with *Balſ. Capiv. Spir. Nitr. dulc.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to take frequently.

*Aug.* 5. He came with a moſt joyful Countenance, to tell me that he was perfectly well, his Sight, Memory and Speech being as good as ever, and his Pains and Lameneſs quite removed, and therefore deſired to return his hearty Thanks to the Board for his great Cure.——I ordered him however ſome of the *Pil. fœt.* and the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to take for ſome Time, to ſtrengthen

then his Nerves and to prevent a Relapſe.

Although this Caſe doth not properly belong to the Claſs of Convulſions, yet as it ſhews the ſurpriſing Effect external Injury may have upon the nervous Syſtem, I thought it not improper to allow it a Place here to corroborate the preceding Caſes.——From the Loſs of his Underſtanding, Memory, and total Numbneſs, we cannot but think that the Origin of Nerves had received ſuch a Shock, that they were greatly hindered in their Functions in general; and in particular, that the Blow had touched and bruiſed ſome Branch of the 5th Pair, which diſperſes many Twigs there, and immediately are concerned in the Or-

gans of Sight, Hearing, and Speech. And as Branches of this Pair inoſculate with the Nerves of the *Vertebræ* of the Neck, out of which the Nerve moving the Arm ariſes, the Loſs of its Motion is eaſy to conceive. But that one Side of the *Spinalis Medulla* ſhould partake of this Injury, ſo far as to affect the crural Nerve of that Side only, is not eaſily accounted for. I therefore aſk'd, whether this Lameneſs might not proceed from his falling on that Side; to which his Wife anſwered, ſhe did not know of any Injury he had received there.

The Pain about the *Os Bregmatis*, of the oppoſite Side, did probably ariſe from a Contra-concuſſion of ſome of the Membranes, in like Manner as I have ſeen Contra-fiſſures of the *Cranium*, even in ſome where no con-

conſiderable external Injury was to be perceived. The Nature of the Pain ſhew'd plainly that it was nervous, becauſe it at Times relaxed him to ſuch a Degree that he was lame all over, and could hardly move.

Although Coſtiveneſs of the Body may come from various Cauſes, yet in this Caſe it is probable that it was owing to the Diſorder the Nerves of the *Meſenterium* laboured under; whether primarily from the Blow, or that the Action of the Nerves being vitiated, the Injury had extended itſelf gradually thus far, I will not pretend to determine. Certain it is, that Coſtiveneſs is a common Symptom when the nervous Syſtem is injured.

The Indication appeared in this Caſe to be, to evacuate the peccant Hu-

mors, that might be ſuppoſed to have lodged about the injured Parts; to ſtimulate and reſtore Activity to the Nerves, and laſtly to brace them up. How theſe Intentions were anſwered, appears from the foregoing Method of Cure; which ſucceeded beyond Expectation.

A Caſe ſomewhat like this we find deſcribed in *Boerhaave's Conſultations*, publiſhed lately, N°. 50. in a young Lady who had fell from her Horſe, but the Pain was on the ſame Side where ſhe was hurt; which he directed to be cured *by Evacuations from the Head downwards.*

CASE

## CASE XVI.

*Fits from external Hurt.*

*Lewis Harriſon*, ten Years of Age, a ſtout ſtrong-made Boy, was ſtruck by another in the right *Epigaſtrium*, about a Month before he came to the *Infirmary*, which was the 17th of *July*, 1741. upon which he fell down, and lay ſenſeleſs and motionleſs ſome Time, and was ſo ill that he kept his Bed ten Days; during which Time he had Fits every Day, loſing his Senſes, ſtruggling hard, and foaming at Mouth. His Belly is very hard, and coſtive; voids but little Urine, which is very high coloured.——Theſe Sort of Fits have followed him pretty cloſe ever ſince,

inſomuch that his Memory and Underſtanding ſeem to be impaired by them.

I ordered him to loſe a little Blood, a Calomel Pill over Night, and a Cathartic next Morning.

*July* 19. The Pill and Purge having agreed with him very well, he had the ſame again.

*July* 25. His Intellects ſeem to be much clearer and ſtronger, and the Fits better. As he complained of a gnawing Pain at Stomach, and ſudden ravenous Appetite, I ſuſpected there might be Worms in the Caſe, and therefore ordered him a Vermifuge Powder every Morning, which if there were none, would by its bitter Ingredients ſerve to brace up the Tone of the Stomach.

*Aug.* 4. Complained ſtill, though not ſo much, of his Stomach, and that he was coſtive; I therefore preſcribed the *Elix. propr.* twice a Day, and Powder as before.

*Aug.* 24. Has had no Fits ſeveral Days. But as his Head was heavy and dizzy, ordered the preparative Pill and Purge again.

*Sept.* 9. Theſe Symptoms being much abated ſince the laſt Phyſic, ordered the ſame again.

*Sept.* 14. Has had no Fits, his Intellects and Head quite well; complains again of the Gnawing at Stomach.——Preſcribed the Vermifuge Powders as before.

*Sept.* 23. His Stomach better, but is a little coſtive, he had the *Elix. propr.* again, and the 29th of the ſame Month he came and returned

Thanks

Thanks to the Board for his Cure, being now perfectly well in every Reſpect.

I have ſeen the Boy ſeveral Times ſince, he continued in good Health, and is grown a luſty Lad.

It is evident from the Conſequences, that the nervous Syſtem was injured by the Blow, but in what Part may be gueſſed at, but not determined.

I conceived the Hurt had occaſioned like a Bruiſe an Echymoſis upon or near ſome Nerve, which being thereby ſtimulated, occaſioned thoſe Spaſms and other Complaints of the Head. Wherefore Evacuations ſeemed to be indicated to carry off the Load of peccant Humors, which ſucceeded accordingly; and it muſt be obvious to every one, that

nervous Medicines would have availed nothing without Evacuations.

It did not appear that the Patient voided any Worms, and perhaps the uneasy Sensation at Stomach proceeded from Consent of the Parts injured.

I had not set down this Case whilst under Cure, but as I remembered some of the Circumstances, I sent for the Lad to refresh my Memory with the Rest.

I think the Case belongs to the Class of Epilepsies.

CASE

## CASE XVII.

*Fits from external Hurt.*

MARY *Cundell*, between ſixteen and ſeventeen Years of Age, a well-grown, ſtrong, and freſh-coloured young Woman, ſeven Years ago, being at Play, her Siſter hit her Temple againſt a Stair-caſe, upon which ſhe immediately fell into a Fit, laughing, crying, and ſtruggling alternatively, which laſted about an Hour. After that, ſhe generally had theſe ſorts of Fits twice or thrice a Day. Then they left her for almoſt a whole Year, but within theſe four Months have returned, and are now worſe than ever. She firſt perceives, when they are coming on, an Uneaſineſs

ſineſs at Stomach, then a Dizzineſs in her Head, upon which ſhe jumps up all at once at any Body, tearing about her like one mad, being inſenſible of what ſhe doth, then falls a crying, laughing, or fainting, foams at Mouth, bites her Tongue, and often wounds it ſo, that ſhe can hardly take any Suſtenance for ſome Time after. She frequently ſtruggles ſo hard, that ſeveral People cannot manage her, and when the Fits are over feels an intolerable Head-ach, Lowneſs and Faintneſs. Between whiles eats her Victuals very hearty; has never had her *Menſes*.

*Aug.* 3, 1745. She had been blooded two Days ago. I ordered *Pil. aur. ij*, one to Night, the other to morrow Night, a Purge the Morning following, and a Paregoric Bolus

at

at Night. And to take ſome of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* between whiles when faint and low-ſpirited.

*Aug.* 9. Has had no Fits, is pure briſk, her Head achs between whiles, but not ſo violently as formerly.—— Ordered her *Pil. Ecphract.* every other Night, *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day, and a perpetual Bliſter to her Arm.

*Aug.* 14. Had a ſlight Attack Yeſterday, but no Fit. Head-ach better ſince the Bliſter.——The Pills and Drops as before.

*Aug.* 21. No Fits, complains of Pain of her Head, is ſwelled and ſick at Stomach, faint and ſhort-breathed. No *Menſes.* Continued the ſame Medicines.

*Aug.* 26. No Fits, is ſtill ſwelled at Stomach, Appetite and Head-ach better. No *Menſes* yet. Or-

Ordered *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. Martis* Nights and Mornings, *Tinct. Stomach. Tinct. Helleb. nig. ana p. æq.* to be taken twice a Day in a Glaſs of fair Water an Hour before Dinner, and at ſix in the Evening, and *V. S. pedis.*

*Sep.* 2. About the Time of full Moon laſt, had ſeveral Attacks of Fits, but no Fits, kept her Senſes; Swelling at Stomach better.——The ſame Medicines again.

*Sept.* 11. No Fits, is well in every Reſpect, but has not ſeen yet her *Menſes.*——Went on as before.

*Sept.* 17. Is well, but no *Menſes* yet.——Ordered to go on.

*Sept.* 24. No Fits, has ſeen a Shew of them.——Was deſired to continue the Mixture and Drops a little longer.

*Oct.*

*Oct.* 23. Has kept away ſo long, not wanting any more Medicines, being very well; has had her *Menſes* in due Order.——However, I ordered ſome *Pil. fœt.* to be taken every other Night to confirm her Cure, and the *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

*Oct.* 30. Said ſhe ſhould have returned Thanks laſt Committee Day, thinking herſelf perfectly well, but that a Perſon having given her ſeveral ſevere Blows, ſhe had fell down in a Fit, and wounded her Head.—Ordered her to be blooded, and to continue the laſt Preſcription.

*Nov.* 22. Came with another Patient, not wanting any Medicines herſelf, being very well; has had her *Menſtrua* very orderly, and not the leaſt Symptom of Fits, ſince that from the Blows as above, though had

met with ſeveral Frights, which before would have occaſioned them. Believes ſhall have no more, and deſigns to give Thanks next Board Day; which ſhe did accordingly.

Here is another Example of Fits from external Injury. It is remarkable, that the Seeds of the old Diſeaſe that had lain dormant, ſhew'd themſelves again about the Time of Puberty; that ſo ſoon as deobſtruent Medicines were given her, the Symptoms of Obſtruction manifeſted themſelves more plainly; and that when ſhe was made regular, ſhe was alſo cured of her Fits.

## CASE XVIII.

### *Fits from a Blow on the Head.*

*Eliz. Strickland*, about eighteen, of a ſanguine Complexion; when ſix or ſeven Years old had a Blow given her in the Work-houſe on the right Side of the Head near the *Occiput*, which felled her down, and deprived her of her Senſes for ſome Time. Since that has been troubled with Fits, which come on with a Riſing from her Stomach, ſo that ſhe is forced to ſwallow her Spittle as faſt as poſſible for fear of being ſuffocated, then it gets up to her Head, and ſhe falls down precipitately like dead, and comes to herſelf again in about three or four Minutes. Obſerves

a great

a great Forgetfulneſs after her Fits, ſo that if ſent on an Errand, and has a Fit mean while, forgets what ſhe was ſent about. Has generally two or three of 'em a Day; any Fright, Vexation or Uneaſineſs brings them on.——Has had her *Menſes* about one Year pretty regularly; ſince which has been worſe of her Fits, and whilſt they are upon her finds herſelf alſo rather more troubled with Fits.

*June* 12, 1745. Ordered her to be blooded, the *Pil. fæt.* every other Day, and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*June* 19. Fits ſtill as bad, is between whiles lightſomer, has a great Sourneſs at Stomach, Head very dizzy.——Ordered a Bliſter to her Neck, an Emetick, the *Julep. Cretac.* and *Pil. fæt.* every other Night.

*June* 26. Miſſed her Fits one Day, which had never done before, had ſome ſince, but neither ſo long nor ſo ſtrong. Still a great Sourneſs at Stomach.——Ordered *Pil. fæt.* as before, *Sp. C. C.* twice a Day, and the *Jul. Cretac.*

*July* 3. Miſſed her Fits one Day. Had them very bad Yeſterday and the Day before (Moon full the 2d.) Ordered *Pil. fæt.* as before, *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* and a perpetual Bliſter upon the Arm, Sourneſs at Stomach gone.

*July* 17. Miſſed her Fits two Days, when they come are ſhorter and not ſo ſtrong. Ordered *V. S.* to renew the Bliſter, which was almoſt dry, the Pills as before, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

*Aug.* 1. Had a ſtrong Fit the 29th in the Morning in Bed, which made

it

it ſhake, but laſted only two Minutes. Had two yeſterday, Water runs from her Mouth abundantly.—Had her Pills again, and to refreſh her Spirits, which ſhe complained were exceeding low, ſome *Spir. Lav. C.*

*Aug.* 14. Miſſed her Fits two Days. Had them again Yeſterday, and to Day had two whilſt waiting at the *Infirmary*; they laſt but a little while, ſhe is not ſo ill after, and recovers her Senſes ſooner.——Was blooded again; and as I began to ſuſpect the Diſorder in her Stomach and Bowels, according to her Deſcription, might perhaps proceed from Worms, I preſcribed the *Elect. Helmint.* Nights and Mornings, and of the *Tinct. Helleb. nig. & Spir. Lav. C.* at eleven and five.

*Sept.* 5. Is better, her Fits often come and go in her Sleep, ſtruggles hard, as her Miſtreſs with whom ſhe lies, tells her. The *Elect.* and Drops repeated.

*Sept.* 26. Had Fits in the Night very bad.——Ordered *Pil. Aur. ij*, then a Purge *Lac Ammon. & Aſſ. fœt. ana p. æq.* a couple of Spoonſful three or four Times a Day.

I did not ſee her again 'till the 22d of *October*, when ſhe deſired to give Thanks to the Board, ſaying ſhe was almoſt well of her Fits, and believed they would wear away: However I urged her not to leave off her Medicines, accordingly for the next Day I ordered her an Emetic, two preparative Pills for two Nights following, after that a Cathartic, and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* three or four Times a Day, or when faint.

*Nov.*

*Nov.* 5. Had the preparative Pills and Cathartic again, was blooded, and *Tinct. fulig.* as before, was better.

*Nov.* 11. Had had no Fits ſeveral Days, thinks herſelf perfectly well. ——Ordered by Way of Precaution, and to fortify her Nerves againſt any ſudden Surpriſe, the *Lac Ammon.* & *Aſſ. fœt.* After that ſaw her no more, ſo conclude ſhe continued well.

This Girl did not purſue her Medicines cloſe enough, elſe, very probably, would have been cured much ſooner.

The violent Concuſſion the Brain received from the Blow, was doubtleſs the Occaſion of the Fits, which therefore may be rank'd in the epileptic Order: although afterwards they ſeemed to begin in the Stomach, the

Nerves of which had been ſo much debilitated that they gave the firſt Notice, as ſoon as the Diſorder began to affect the Brain.

The Diſorder at her Stomach, and violent Flux of *Saliva*, were greatly abated by the Uſe of the *Elect. Helmint.* But whether that was not rather owing to the Stomachic than the Vermifuge Ingredient, I cannot determine, becauſe no Worms were perceived to come from her.

## CASE XIX.

### *Fits after a ſtrong Purge.*

ANN *Meers*, aged thirteen, of a low Stature, thin Habit, and pale Complexion, was about ſix Years ago, after a ſtrong Cathartic, taken

taken with a violent Convulſion Fit: after that her Fits were not ſo ſtrong, but frequent, ſo that ſhe often had two or three a Day; obſerved ſhe was commonly worſe about the Changes of the Moon. Is now frequently ſeized with great Pain at Stomach, which ſometimes ſwells very much, and after it is troubled with Wind and Rumbling in the Bowels. Her Mouth is ſo full of Spittle that ſhe is obliged to ſwallow it ſo faſt that it almoſt choaks her, then her Head is ſeized with a *Stupor*, loſes her Senſes, faints away with Diſtortion of her Limbs, ſometimes with, ſometimes without Struggling, and in about a Quarter of an Hour recovers her Senſes, but remains very weak and languid. Her Appetite very bad, is always ſick at Stomach, and often

brings

brings up her Victuals again, begins to loſe Fleſh, and Strength, and thinks herſelf in a Conſumption.

Commenced an Out-patient the 27th of *March*, 1745. from which Time ſhe had divers Doſes of *Pil. fœt.* to take every other Night, and *El. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day; but not purſuing her Cure cloſely, received little Benefit till the 10th of *June*, when ſhe told me ſhe had had no Fits three Weeks, Vomiting and Sickneſs at Stomach not ſo bad. Continued the ſame Medicines.

*June* 26. Had Fits the 22d, (two Days before the 1ſt Quarter of the Moon) not ſo long nor ſo ſtrong. Swallowing of Spittle ſtill very troubleſome.——Ordered *Pil. Epilept.* to be taken three Times a Day, with ſome *El. Vitr.* and a Cathartic ſome Days after.

*July*

*July* 1. No Fits, Spittle not troubleſome, is purely ſince the Purge.—Ordered the ſame again.

*July* 24. Obſerves has Fits every three Weeks, conſtantly, deſpairs of ever getting well. Had them laſt Week from *Monday* 15, to *Saturday* 20. yet cannot ſay they are ſo ſtrong or long, (new Moon the 17th) has a gnawing Pain at Stomach before Eating, and is ſwelled.——Ordered *Elect. Helmintic.* Nights and Mornings, and *Elix. propr.* about Noon, and at five or ſix in the Afternoon.

*Aug.* 12. The Gnawing and Swelling at Stomach gone: Has had no Fits, is mended purely ſince laſt Medicines, which therefore were repeated.

*Sept.* 11. No Fits; Head-ach between whiles and giddy, Stomach pretty

pretty well.——Againſt the approaching Change of the Moon, ordered her a Vomit to Day, to be blooded to Morrow, a Purge the next Morning, and Paregoric at Night.

*Sept.* 17. Had Fits laſt *Wedneſday* Night, and off and on till *Friday* Evening (new Moon on *Friday*) however they were but ſhort and not ſtrong, Stomach much better.——Ordered an *Elect.* with *Limat. Stanni Conſ. Ruthæ* and *Z. Z.* alſo *Elix. propr.* as before.

*Sep.* 27. Has had ſome Attacks of Fits, but no Fits. No Pain at all at Stomach.—Went on with the ſame Medicines.

*Oct.* 15. Was perfectly well, and returned Thanks. I told her if ſhe ſhould find herſelf uneaſy on Account of the Want of her *Menſes*, which

hitherto

hitherto had not appeared, or have any Return of Fits, to apply again to the *Infirmary*; which ſhe not having done to this Day, I conclude her to have received a perfect and laſting Cure.

As this Girl was cured with Helmintic Medicines chiefly, it is highly probable, as alſo from ſome of her Complaints, ſhe had Worms; although ſhe perceived none to come from her, as ſhe ſaid, which may be imputed to her Ignorance and Want of proper Obſervation.

Whether the firſt Fit was occaſioned, by the violent Irritation from the Cathartic, or from the Worms being greatly diſturbed by it, and clinging therefore cloſe to the Membranes of the Inteſtines, which by drawing the

nervous Syſtem into Conſent, brought on thoſe univerſal Convulſions, I cannot determine.

I remember the Caſe of a young Lady of about ſeventeen, who had voided ſeveral Pieces of the Tape Worm. Two or three Hours after taking a moderate Doſe of *Tinct. Sacr.* ſhe was ſeized with a violent Pain in her Stomach and Bowels, after that fell into a Fit, and went from one into another 'till ſhe died, which was but a few Hours after. She was blooded, bliſtered and vomited, but all to no Purpoſe. I wanted to have had her opened, but could not prevail upon the Parents. Might not this ſudden Change be owing to Worms being diſturbed by the diſagreeable Medicine, and faſtening ſo cloſe to the Membranes as to occaſion thoſe violent Spaſms,

which

which at laſt cauſed a total Contraction, ſo as to hinder the animal Functions going on any longer?

That this is the Caſe in Children is evident. Their Fits happen ſo often from Worms, that two out of three are cured by a little Calomel purged off, and helmintic Medicines, as I have frequently experienced.

## CASE XX.

### *Convulſions after a Fever and Lameneſs.*

JOHN *Dunſtan*, twelve Years of Age, was after a Fever afflicted with Convulſions in his Bowels, attended with moſt exquiſite Pain, which laſted ſeveral Days. Upon this followed a *Diarrhœa*, which continued eight or nine Days, and

left him about a fortnight ago. Since that he is feveriſh every Night, his Stomach is ſwelled hard and painful; his right Side pinched in, the Leg of that Side is grown ſhorter than the other by half an Inch, inclined to turn inwards and lame. He eats hearty, but gathers neither Fleſh nor Strength, and ſeems to be in a Decline.

*Aug.* 30, 1745. As he look'd pale, was feeble and emaciated, I ordered him no Bleeding, but take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings to diſcharge the morbific Load from the Nerves, and a Mixture with ſome *Sal. C. C.* to open the nervous Obſtructions, and to reſtore their Activity, to which a little *Laud. liq.* was added to ſtill his Pains.

*Sept.*

*Sept.* 4. The Pain of his Side better, not ſo much pinched in, his Leg alſo better.——Had the ſame Medicines again.

*Sept.* 12. Side is well, the Leg as long as the other, and almoſt as ſtrong, but complains of Pain and Weakneſs in his Back.

As I imagined this to proceed from a Shifting of the Diſorder, and the Lad was grown hearty, I ordered him to be blooded, ſome Calomel at Night to reſolve the morbific Humor, and to purge it off the next Morning, a Paregoric at Night, and ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* three Times a Day.

*Sept.* 17. He returned Thanks, being perfectly well.

## CASE XXI.

### Saint Vitus Dance, *and Lameneſs of the left Side.*

*Eliz. Chambers*, aged eleven Years and half, was about four Months ago ſeized on a ſudden in the Evening with a working of her Eyes, left Hand and Leg, which increaſed daily, to ſuch a Degree, that in fourteen Days after ſhe loſt the Uſe of her left Side intirely.

*Dec.* 23, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Bliſter to her Back, ſhe complaining of a great Diſorder in her Head, and *Pil. fæt.* every other Night.

*Dec.* 30. Her Head being ſtill very dizzy, had *Pil. fæt.* as before, and *Spir. C. C.* twice a Day.

*Jan.*

*Jan.* 13. Began to mend a little, therefore had the ſame Medicines again.

*Janu.* 20. Lameneſs much the ſame, Complaints of the Head better, has a great Sickneſs at Stomach, and hardly any Appetite. Ordered a perpetual Bliſter to the left Arm, *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and *Gum Ammon.* Mixture with a Bitter to ſtrengthen the Tone of the Stomach as well as the Nerves, and a ſmall Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to ſtill its painful Senſation.

Theſe Sorts of Medicines, with little Alteration, were continued till ſhe was quite well, which by the by would have been ſooner if ſhe had given more diligent Attendance, and the 1ſt of *April* ſhe returned Thanks for her Cure.

The *Saint Vitus Dance* generally terminates in a Palsy of the Limb affected; and this seems to have begun in the Head, from the Rolling of the Eyes, and the violent Disorder she felt there at first.

The Greatness of the Distemper shews itself, by its bringing on a *Hemiplegia.*

As the Lameness grew a little better, the Arm and Leg began to assume their former convulsive Motion again, the Influx of the animal Spirits being now readmitted, though yet irregularly, which before were excluded. And this also going off gradually, she was restored to her former State of Health again.

CASE

## CASE XXII.

*Fits from Obſtruction of the* Menſes.

*Rachel Long*, eighteen Years of Age, had Fits a Year ago, occaſioned, as was ſuppoſed, by the Stoppage of her *Menſes*; ſhe having miſſed them about two Months. The *Menſes* having been procured her again, ſhe was ſoon cured of her Fits, and continued well 'till about two Months ago, when they ſtopt again, ſince which Time has had her Fits again in the ſame Manner as formerly.——She firſt perceives a Sickneſs at Stomach and Giddineſs, then falls a Screaming, Kicking and Stamping, beating herſelf, biting her Tongue and Lips, ſtruggling ſo hard

that ſeveral People muſt hold her to prevent doing herſelf a Miſchief, between whiles is ſenſible, and thus continues about half an Hour. After the Fits ſhe is very faint and ſtupid; has had them lately about ſix in the Morning and ſix in the Evening. Has hardly any Appetite, *Alvus* regular, between the Fits pretty chearful.

*July* 17, 1745. Ordered *V. S. ped. Pil. Ecphract.* every other Night, and a Chalybeate bitter Tincture twice a Day.

*July* 26. Had Fits 'till the 22d, none ſince. Is ſick at Stomach, after that has a Trembling.——Ordered an *Elect.* with *Conſ. abſ. Rom. Chalybs & Z. Z.* Nights and Mornings, and *Lac Ammon.* with ſome *Tinctura Stom. amar.* and a little *Laud. liq.*

*July*

*July* 31. Has had no Fits. Head and Stomach very bad. No *Menſes* yet.——Ordered as before.

*Aug.* 7. No Fits this Fortnight, Head and Appetite better, but no *Catamenia.*——Went on with the ſame Medicines.

*Aug.* 14. No Fits, nor *Menſes*, is troubled with Shortneſs of Breath and Cough, and very uneaſy at Stomach. Had the *Elect.* and Mixture again, and a pectoral *Linctus*, was blooded again, and a perpetual Bliſter to her Arm.

*Aug.* 21. Has had but one Fit theſe three Weeks, which was this Morning, but was neither ſo ſtrong nor long as formerly, it laſted but one Quarter of an Hour. Thinks ſhould be perfectly well if ſhe had her *Menſes.*——Ordered *Pil. Belloſt.* every

other Day, and the Mixture of *G. Ammon. &c.* as above.

*Sept.* 5. *Menſtrua* came down the 24th paſt tolerably well; took a great Walk laſt *Sunday*, ſince which has Eruptions all over, with great Heat and Itching.——Ordered *Pil. Belloſt.* again, and as they had not moved her much, to take a little *Tinct. Jalap.* the Morning after them. Alſo the former Mixture again.

*Oct.* 2. No Fits, Eruptions ſtill very troubleſome, is faint and low-ſpirited between whiles.——Ordered *Æth. Min. Antim. Crud. & G. Guaj.* Nights and Mornings, with a Diet Drink, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.*

*Oct.* 8. No Fits, Eruptions better. Went on as before. After this I ſaw her no more 'till the 5th of *Nov.* when ſhe returned Thanks for her Cure, being perfectly well.

In

In this Caſe the morbific Matter accumulated periodically, as it doth in Agues, and therefore the *Cortex* would have been indicated, if I had not been pretty clear, that all the Diſorder was owing to the Obſtruction of the *Menſes*; which being removed, the Fits ceaſed.

The Mercurial Pills brought on the *Menſes* at laſt. I have often obſerved, that Mercurials given between whiles, during the Courſe of Chalybeates, have a very good Effect, and add greatly to their Operation.

The long Walk ſhe took heated her Blood ſo, that it threw out at the Surface a ſcorbutic Heat, which very probably depurated the Maſs alſo of the Matter that occaſioned the Fits, and thus far an Exceſs in one of the Non-naturals, was accidentally

the

the Occaſion of her receiving a perfect Cure.

## CASE XXIII.

### *Fit from Suppreſſion of the* Menſes.

MAry *Prettyman*, aged twenty three, of a tender Habit, had her *Menſes* but indifferently for about ſix Months laſt paſt, and the three laſt, but barely a Shew of them. About ten Weeks ago was taken with a great Working in her Bowels, Swelling at Stomach, after that grew hot and feveriſh, then had a Tremor all over, and fell into a Fit, crying and laughing alternatively, which laſted about three Hours. Has had at Times three or four of them in twenty four Hours, ſometimes ſtruggling hard, at

other

other Times not at all, which always left behind a Dizzineſs of the Head, total Languor, and Loſs of Appetite.

*May* 8. She came into the *Infirmary*, and having then an Appearance of the *Menſtrua*, I did not care to diſturb Nature; for which Reaſon I only ordered her to take three or four Times a Day ſome of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* in a Glaſs of Spring Water.

*May* 10. I preſcribed Bleeding, *Epiſp. in Nuch. P. fœt.* every other Night, and to continue her Drops; the *Menſtrua* were now over.

*May* 15. The Bliſter diſcharged very well, was ordered to go on as before.

*May* 20. Her Fits were ſomething abated, and ſhe chuſing to purſue the Cure as an Out-patient, was diſcharged.

charged. This Day being new Moon, I ordered her to be blooded, and finding the Pills had not purged her of late, but that ſhe was coſtive, ordered her to take ſome of the Pills to Night, and a purging Draught to morrow Morning, and a Paregoric at Night.

*May* 22. The Cathartic had ſucceeded very well, and ſhe thought herſelf much relieved by it. Was ordered to take of the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, a larger Doſe than before, the former not having kept her Body open, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

*May* 29. Complaining again that ſhe was coſtive, I ordered her to take ſome of our *Elect. aper.* with the Pills to promote their Operation. The *Elix. Vitr.* as before; ſhe thought

thought her Fits ſhorter, and not ſo ſtrong.

*June* 7. Her Head being very dizzy, ordered another Bliſter, and the Pills, Electuary and Drops as before. Had miſſed her Fits ſeveral Days, but the 5th had one before ſhe got out of Bed, laughing and crying, but not ſo ſtrong, nor was ſhe ſo faint and low after.——Had had her *Menſes* duly as to Quantity and Quality.

*June* 14. Had no Fits theſe laſt ten Days, whereas ſhe generally uſed to have two or more in a Week. Her Stomach and Head ſtill affected, tho' not quite ſo bad. The Pills, Electuary and Drops were continued.

*June* 24. Was well, made no Complaints but of Weakneſs and Lowneſs. I ordered the Pills and Drops to be con-

continued, and directed a purging Draught to be taken in Caſe of Coſtiveneſs.

*June* 25. She returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

This Caſe is properly hyſterick, as the Fits without Doubt proceeded from a Want of the menſtrual Diſcharge; which left a Load upon the uterine Nerves, and by Conſent involved the whole nervous Syſtem into thoſe general Spaſms. The Event plainly juſtifies this Reaſoning; for as ſoon as the *Menſes* ſhew'd themſelves in due Quality and Quantity, the Fits, and all the attendant Symptoms diſappeared.

## CASE XXIV.

*Fits after Delivery of a dead Child.*

ELeanor *Smith*, aged forty five, of a robuſt Habit, about nine Years ago had Fits, the ſame Sort with thoſe ſhe now labours under; ſhe was cured of them, and remained well ſeveral Years.——About two Years ſince, fourteen Days after ſhe had been delivered of a dead Child, her Purgations going on very well, ſhe was ſeized in the Night with a great Pain in the Small of her Back, which ſoon moved into her Stomach, afterwards had a Choaking in her Throat, then a *Vertigo*; from the Head the Pain returned back again into her Stomach and Bowels, after

after that loſt her Senſes, and lay like a dead Corpſe, and ſometimes ſtruggled.

During the Fit her Mouth is ſo full of Water that ſhe ſeems almoſt choak'd with it; when over, ſhe trembles every Limb, reaches to vomit, and remains ſtupid for two or three Hours. Afterwards is briſk, but is frequently troubled with Faintings and great Noiſe in her Head.

Theſe ſort of Fits follow her now very cloſe, they generally attack her about four in the Morning in Bed.

She has her *Menſes* ſtill regularly, but not ſo much in Quantity as formerly.

This being the critical Time of the *Menſes* going off, when Evacuations are very proper, I ordered her the the 14th of *Aug.* 1745. to looſe ſome Blood,

Blood, a preparative Pill two Nights following, and a Purge the Morning after. Then *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day for a few Days.

*Aug.* 21. Had the preparative Pills and Purge again, they having operated and agreed very well. Alſo *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig. & parv. quant. Laud. liq.* to be uſed twice a Day.

*Sept.* 5. Finds herſelf better, but being pretty much weakned by the briſk Purges, I ordered her *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day to brace up.

*Sept.* 18. Fits better, but Fainting and Colic Pain very bad. Ordered a paregoric Pill every Night, *Pil. fœt.* and the *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

After this ſhe ſtay'd away 'till the 15th of *Oct.* which I chid her for,

having lately rather gone back than advanced, as in all Probability ſhe would not have done, if ſhe had purſued her Medicines, which had been of Service to her.——Has had ſome ſlight Returns of her Fits, which ſhe ſaid, the latter End of *Sept.* had quite left her; but Fainting and Colic better. As I perceived ſome Eruptions upon her, I ordered the *Pulv. alter. cum Guaj.* twice a Day, and the Decoction of the Woods for her common Drink.

From this Time I ſaw her no more 'till the 15th of *November*, when ſhe came and returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

This Caſe gives a true Repreſentation of an hyſteric Fit, and has nothing extraordinary but that the Fit returns

return'd in the Morning at a certain Hour, which Circumſtance has been taken Notice of already.

It is probable this Woman would have been cured much ſooner had ſhe attended cloſely, and purſued her Medicines without Intermiſſion. But this is a common Fault amongſt the Poor, who when better ſtay away, to ſee whether their Amendment will continue ſo; mean while, if the Seeds of the Diſtemper are not ſufficiently eradicated, they ſhew themſelves again with Vigor, and we are obliged to begin the whole Courſe of Medicines over again. On the other Hand, if the Cure ſtands good, few take the Trouble of ſhewing themſelves to their Benefactors with Gratitude, and by that Means we loſe the Satisfaction of ſeeing many Cures, which

might furniſh us with uſeful Obſervations.——As towards the latter End of her Cure, there was a conſiderable Appearance of Eruptions upon her Skin, which I have obſerved has happened to others under the like Circumſtances, the *Pulv. alter. cum Guaj.* which ſheaths, and gently evacuates the acrimonious Particles at the ſame Time, compleated all our Intentions.

## CASE XXV.

### *Fits from Worms.*

*George Hibbert*, a luſty and ſtrong Boy, two Years old, was brought to the *Infirmary* the 2d of *Aug.* 1745. His Mother told me the Child often complained of Pain in his Belly,

Belly, where ſhe could feel a great Working, after which he ſcreamed out and had Fits. He was generally coſtive, but when he had Stools they were looſe, and ſeveral running, attended with a griping Pain.

Suſpecting that a crude undigeſted *Saburra* in the Bowels, or Worms, occaſioned theſe Complaints, I ordered one half of our *Pil. aur.* to be taken at Night, and to be purged off the next Morning with ſome of the *Pulv. Rad. jalap.* and a little *Conf. Mithrid.* the Night after the Purge; and in Caſe of Faintneſs to give him a few Drops of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.*

*Aug.* 5. The Medicines had operated very well, and the Child ſeemed to be much relieved, I therefore ordered the ſame to be repeated. The Mother had perceived no Worms in

his Stools, which I had directed her to obſerve.

After this he had the ſame kind of Medicines twice more, and was perfectly freed from his inward and outward Fits.

If the Child had voided any Thing like Worms, I ſhould have given antihelmintic Medicines between the Purges, but as none appeared, and he grew better, I confined the whole Cure to this plain Method, which the Practitioner will find ſucceſsful, provided the Remedies are applied with Judgment. What would the *Pulv. Bezoard. ad Guttet. Caſt. Aſſ. fæt.* Bliſters, *&c.* have availed, when, as is common in Children, the Cure depended upon Evacuations? Even in Fevers attended with Convulſions, when there is any Reaſon to ſuſpect either

either Worms or Crudities in the *primæ viæ*, this Method will do; and the low State of the Child ſhould be no Objection, for I have frequently ſeen Children emaciated to the laſt Degree, and very faint and low, who preſently after ſeemed to be revived beyond Expreſſion, and ſoon grew ſtrong and fleſhy.

I could ſoon produce many Inſtances of this Kind, were I to look over our Books, or recollect Caſes from private Practice. But this Matter has from Experience latterly appeared ſo plain to me, that I neglected making a Collection of this Kind. If it ſhould admit of any Doubt, I ſhall eaſily be enabled to inſert many ſuch Caſes, if the Public ſhould want a ſecond Edition of this Treatiſe.

## CASE XXVI.

*Fits from Worms.*

JOHN *Macloud*, five Years old, a lusty well-grown Boy, of a healthy Complexion, was five Weeks ago seized with a Fit, went to Bed very well, and had never had any Fit before; he waked out of his first Sleep screaming, raving and tearing, foaming at his Mouth, losing his Senses for about one Quarter of an Hour, then came gradually to himself, seemed to be in a great Agony, calling for his Sister to help him, &c. presently after the Fit called out for the Pot, and made a great deal of Water.

He has had one or two of these Fits a Week ever since; when they come

come on he thinks there are Needles and Pins pricking in his Belly, and bids his Mother look at his Belly to eaſe him; they always come at Nights in Bed.——He otherwiſe ſleeps well, eats and drinks hearty, is briſk in the Day Time, and goes to School, plays about, &c. is generally coſtive, makes Urine well, and makes no Complaints of his Head.

Judging that this Child's Fits proceeded from Worms or Crudities in the firſt Paſſages, I ordered the 12th of *July*, 1745. ſome *Pulv. Rhei cum fl. Sulph.* to be taken every other Night, and *Elix. propriet.* twice a Day the intermediate Days.

*July* 17. Was better. Had had but one Fit, which his Mother ſaid had not been ſo long nor ſtrong as formerly, and was not accompanied with

with ſo much Pain.——I ordered the ſame Medicines again.

As I ſaw the Child no more after that, I cannot ſay poſitively he was cured, though it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that as he was ſo much mended by the firſt Medicines, the ſecond Courſe did compleat the Cure, and that in Caſe of the Contrary the Mother would have applied for more.

This ungrateful Way of Behaviour is ſo common among the Vulgar, that if we have *Jeſus Chriſt*'s Proportion, *viz.* one in ten to give Thanks, we think ourſelves well ſerved.

## CASE XXVII.

### *Epileptic Fits from Worms.*

*Frances Vickery*, thirty ſix Years of Age, of a robuſt Habit, came to the *Infirmary* the 21ſt of *April*, 1746. About ten Weeks ago was waked out of her Sleep with a great Pain in the left Side of her Neck, ſoon after that felt a Working in her Head, then loſt her Senſes, and ſhe was told her Neck was ſo diſtorted to the left Side, that they could not put it to rights with all their Force, and thought ſhe would be ſuffocated, for ſhe foamed at Mouth, look'd black in the Face, and her Body and Limbs lay extended like one dead. Since that Time has had ſeveral of theſe Fits,

Fits, when they come on ſhe thinks ſhe ſees nothing but Fire and Glaſs, and all kind of luminous Objects before her Eyes, and at their going off, voids Urine involuntarily.

I ordered her to be blooded in the *Jugular*, as ſhe complained of a Dizzineſs and Numbneſs in her Head, a preparative Pill of Calomel, and *Sulph. aur. Antimon.* two Nights following, the next Morning a Cathartic, and a Paregoric at Night, and *Spir. C. C.* to be taken frequently.

*May* 2. She told me that the Day ſhe took her Phyſick, ſhe voided one Piece of a joint Worm a Yard and an half long, and another three Quarters of a Yard long, and that ſhe found herſelf abundantly relieved, had a Fit, but a ſlight one, and was not ſo ill after as formerly.——I aſked

whether ſhe had been troubled with Coſtiveneſs, or Looſeneſs, ſhort, or ſtinking Breath, Voracity, Thirſt, Nauſea, Vomiting, Pain at Stomach, inflated Belly, &c. She had perceived none of thoſe Complaints neither before the Fits nor after, and had her *Menſes* regularly.

I muſt own, that when I preſcribed for her, I did not imagine theſe Fits were owing to Worms, but as ſhe had evacuated ſo large a Portion of the Tape Worm, I ordered her to go on with the ſame Medicines.——I remember a Servant, in a Family where I was imployed, had ſome Years ago many ſtrange hyſteric Complaints, with Swelling of the Legs, and an intolerable *Cephalalgia*, after ſhe had taken Loads of nervous Medicines, had been blooded, bliſtered,

bliſtered, &c. I ordered helmintic Medicines, which expelled large Portions of the *Lumbricus faſcialis*, one Piece ſhe meaſured and found it near nine Yards long, which Courſe being purſued ſome Time, ſhe recovered a pretty good State of Health.——About the ſame Time a Woman in *Spittle-fields*, complaining of a Shortneſs of Breath, Thirſt, Swelling of the *Abdomen*, Thighs and Legs, was coſtive, made but little Urine, had a quick ſmall Pulſe, and had not ſeen her *Menſes* ſeveral Months; which as ſhe was but thirty five and not pregnant, was thought to be the Occaſion of her having the Dropſy.——Deobſtruent, aperient, diuretic, hydragogue, &c. Medicines were given her without Succeſs.——At laſt the good Woman ſaid ſhe obſerved her Belly

not equally ſwelled, but hard Lumps in ſome Places, for which Fomentations were ordered twice a Day, to diſpel if Flatuſes in the Inteſtines, or to reſolve if Tumors in the Integuments or *Omentum*, which could not well be diſtinguiſhed as the Woman was extremely emaciated, and the *Abdomen* diſtended as hard as a Drum. ——The Tenſion being a little abated, I imagined a purgative Medicine, of which many had been given before in vain, might be of Service, either to expel the Flatuſes, or to evacuate ſome of the reſolved Matter. Wherefore a little *Calomel* was given over Night, and purged off next Morning with an aloetic Medicine, which had ſo good an Effect that ſhe voided Abundance of Dregs reſembling the Joints of the ſolitary Worm decay'd; which

which gave her great Eaſe, and leſſened the Tumors.

The Proceſs was repeated with equal Succeſs ſo long 'till all the Tumors were gone. After that the Swelling of the *Abdomen* went off gradually, alſo that of the Thighs and Legs, and all the other Symptoms diſappeared by Degrees, and ſhe recovered a good State of Health, which ſhe has enjoyed almoſt without Interruption theſe ſeven or eight Years. She voided of that vermicular Stuff, as near as might be gueſſed at, three or four Pounds.

As to *Frances Vickary*, I ſaw her no more after the ſecond Preſcription; and as ſhe had voided Pieces of the Tape Worm by Means of the firſt Phyſic, and was better of her Fits, there is ſtrong Reaſon to preſume,

ſume, the ſecond expelled the Remainder of the Worm, and made her quite eaſy.

## CASE XXVIII.

*Fits from Vexation and Fright.*

JANE *Arbuthnot*, nineteen Years old, freſh coloured, and of a pretty ſtrong Habit: from Vexation and Fright had about ſix Months ago her firſt Fit. She firſt perceived a Sickneſs at Stomach, then Riſing in the Throat, Swimming of the Head, ſo that ſhe could not ſtand, Staring of the Eyes, then fell down ſuddenly; Struggling hard, rolling her Eyes, foaming at Mouth, biting her Tongue, Lips, Hands, or any Thing elſe ſhe

could lay hold of; growing black in the Face, and remaining ſenſeleſs for half an Hour after the Fit. She generally has a profuſe *Hæmorrhagy* at Noſe when the Fit is over, ſo that they have thought ſometimes ſhe would bleed to Death, which Bleeding ſhe has been ſubject to theſe nine Years.

She generally had two or three Fits a Week, her *Menſtrua* have been regular, but ſparing and very pale theſe ten Months laſt paſt; about that Time and the Change of the Moon is always worſe.

At preſent complains alſo of an Uneaſineſs and Swelling of the Stomach and Legs, her Appetite is good, *Alvus* regular, Urine commonly thick and red, and has almoſt a conſtant Dizzineſs of the Head.—*July* 3, 1745.

I or-

I ordered her to loſe eight Ounces of Blood, a *Calomel* Pill at Night, the purging Salts next Morning, afterwards the *Pil. fœt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitr.* the intermediate Days, and a Bliſter upon her Back.

*July* 12. Has had her Fits as long and ſtrong as before, but not ſo often, no Bleeding at Noſe ſince. Dizzineſs and Pain at Stomach very troubleſome.——The Bliſter on her Back being almoſt dried up, I ordered a perpetual one on the left Arm, to continue the *Pil. fœt.* as before, and to make frequently uſe of the following Mixture, compoſed of *Sp. C. C. Tinct. Stom. amar.* and a little *Laud. liq.*

*July* 19. Has not her Fits ſo often, nor ſo long, nor ſtruggles ſo

hard. Giddineſs better, Pain at Stomach eaſier, though ſtill ſwelled between whiles. Has had her *Menſes*, which are ſtill ſparing and pale.—— Ordered to go on with the laſt Medicines.

Since that I have ſeen her no more, but it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that as ſhe was ſo much relieved by this Method, ſhe was either cured by the laſt Medicines, or would have been ſo if ſhe had purſued them longer.

This Caſe ſhews ſome Symptoms of hyſteric Fits, but the falling down ſuddenly, Foaming at Mouth, and remaining ſenſeleſs ſo long after, makes it plain that the Diſeaſe was chiefly ſeated in the Brain, and that therefore theſe Fits partake of the Nature of an Epilepſy.

The

The profuſe Bleedings at Noſe had ſo impoveriſhed her Blood, that her *Menſes* were ſparing and pale coloured, and the Legs affected with œdematous Swellings; and in all Probability ſhe would ſoon have fell into a compleat Dropſy.

How far this *Hæmorrhagy* might be acceſſory to the bringing on the Fits, I will not pretend to determine, although the Spaſms that happen after great Effuſions of Blood might furniſh ſome Foundation to eſtabliſh this Theory upon. But my Intention is to inform the Reader of Facts, and not to amuſe him with fine-ſpun ſpeculative Notions.

## CASE XXIX.

*Fits from Grief and Trouble.*

ANN *Knowles*, thirty Years of Age, of a robuſt Habit and healthy Complexion, about ſix Years ago, through Trouble fell into an hyſterical Diſorder, which ſhe has been ſubject to ever ſince, the leaſt Vexation or Surpriſe bringing it on. She is ſeized with a Sickneſs at Stomach, Fainting, Riſing in her Throat, and Dizzineſs, then falls down, ſcreaming ſometimes violently, ſometimes crying, which eaſes her moſt; but is often ſo fatigued after the Fit is over, that ſhe is obliged to keep her Bed a Fortnight or three Weeks. She is worſe Spring and Fall, than in Summer

Summer and Winter, and is generally ill about the Changes of the Moon. Has had her *Menſes* at regular Periods, but too abundant, they laſting ſometimes three Weeks, and at thoſe Times ſhe is worſe. She has been blooded, but finds herſelf rather worſe after it. She often feels a great Gnawing at her Stomach, and is quite ravenous for Victuals, but feels a great Uneaſineaſineſs after Eating; is not coſtive, and voids a great Quantity of pale Urine.

*June* 3, 1745. I ordered an Epiſpaſtic to the Neck, the *Pil. fæt.* to take every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

*June* 17. Has now been ſeveral Days without Fits, is yet ſick and faint between whiles, but not to ſuch a Degree. Can now do ſome Work,

and go about her Buſineſs, which ſhe was not able to do before.

I ordered the former Medicines to be continued.

*June* 24. No Fits, is better of the Complaint at her Stomach, and finds herſelf ſtronger every Day, but troubled with great Sighings and Riſing in her Throat.

I ordered her to go on with the firſt Medicines, and to take ſome of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* between whiles.

*July* 1. Had Fits on a ſudden the 29th, but not ſo ſtrong, neither laſted they ſo long as formerly. Her *Menſes* came on Yeſterday, and the Moon changes to morrow, at which Times, as before obſerved, ſhe is always worſe. As ſhe ſaid, ſhe had received great Benefit from the former Medicines,

dicines, and begged to have them again, I agreed to have them repeated.

*July* 29. Has had no Fits since she was with me last; and finding herself perfectly well, desires to return Thanks for her Cure; however to confirm it, I ordered her a Quantity of the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* and bid her call on me in Case she had any Return of Fits.

## CASE XXX.

### *Fits from Fright.*

*Sarah Goodman*, about eighteen, of a pale Complexion, when five Years old was frighted into a Convulsion Fit, which lasted two Hours; after that she had one every Day during a whole Week, since that has not had 'em so often. She

She is now taken ſometimes in the Street, the Notice ſhe has, is a violent Pain in her left Side below the Ribs, or a Swimming in her Head, upon which ſhe falls down ſuddenly like dead, then ſtruggles ſo hard that three or four can ſcarcely hold her.—The Pain of her Side has within theſe three Months been conſtantly troubleſome.

She has had her *Menſes* regularly one Year, when they are upon her is always worſe, as alſo at the new and full of the Moon. Her appetite is generally good, but after the Fits ſome Time bad with Sickneſs at Stomach, and great Laſſitude, which laſts ſeveral Days.—Any Fright or Vexation brings them on.

*June* 12, 1745. I ordered her the *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings,

and

and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* twice or oftner a Day. *Epiſp. perpet. Brach. intern. ſupra Cubit.*

*June* 18. Has had no Fits ſince the 11th, Pain of her Side not quite ſo bad. Ordered to go on with the former Medicines.

*June* 26. Complained the Medicines were too ſtrong for her Stomach, and that ſhe brought them up. Had Fits the 22d, (firſt Quarter of the Moon the 24th) yet very ſtrong, but obſerved they did not come ſo often.

I ordered a mercurial preparative Pill at Night, a Cathartic the next Morning, and a Paregoric at Night, alſo the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to be uſed frequently.

*July* 9. Had a Fit the firſt, which was but ſhort and not ſo ſtrong (the Moon at full the 2d) and none ſince,

is

is well in every Reſpect, and being obliged to go to Service, and her Miſtreſs having denied her coming for her Medicines to the *Infirmary* for the future, ſhe returned Thanks to the Board, and I ordered her a Quantity of the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* to compleat her Cure.

As the Fits in theſe two laſt Caſes ariſe from the ſame Cauſe, ſo they are alſo very ſimilar in their Effect. Both Patients are ſenſible of the Changes of the Moon, and worſe at the Time of the *Menſes*. The firſt perhaps by Reaſon of the too great Loſs of Blood; the other by the Commotion in the hyſteric Nerves about the Period of Menſtruation.

Their Fits are brought on only by Fright, Vexation, &c. however the

Caſe

Caſe of the laſt is worſe, in as much as they are by Length of Time become habitual; and as ſhe was not releaſed from them at the Age of Puberty, were now almoſt grown epileptic, and in Proceſs of Time, according to all Appearance, would have become truly ſo. For ſome Time ſhe had no Notice, but a *Vertigo*, upon which ſhe fell down ſuddenly, though at other Times the Scene began by a violent Pain in the Side, which Irritation was ſoon communicated to the *Cerebrum*, and thence the Miſchief was diffuſed all over the nervous Syſtem.

The Gnawing at Stomach, *Ann Knowles* complain'd of, not being accompanied by other Worm Symptoms, I judged it to proceed from a ſharp Liquid in the Stomach, incouraging

raging it to receive more Aliments than its Tone could diſpenſe with, and for this Reaſon made Uſe of no helmintic Medicines.

## CASE XXXI.

### *Fits from Fretting.*

ELeanor *Simkins*, aged thirty five, was delivered of a Child about three Months ago, had her Cleanſings in due Order, and was well after it. The Child died at the Age of ſeven Weeks, and ſoon after that ſhe was taken with fainting Fits, which ſhe attributed to Fretting, on Account of her bad Circumſtances.

They came on with a Sickneſs and Pain at Stomach, then ſhe felt a Riſing in her Throat fit to choak her,

after

after that a Dizzineſs, fell down ſuddenly, and lay like one dead for about a Quarter of an Hour, without Struggling, but with total Loſs of all her Senſes.

Imagining that this poor Woman's Illneſs might ariſe either from the proper Evacuations not being made after the Loſs of her Child to carry off the Milk; or that Grief, by relaxing the ſolids and emunctory Veſſels, had brought on a Load upon the Nerves, occaſioning theſe Syncopes:

I therefore ordered her the 24th of *Aug.* 1745. a Bliſter to her Back, the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*Aug.* 30. She was greatly relieved, found herſelf in pretty good Spirits and lightſome. As the Medicines had agreed very well, I ordered them to be continued. *Sept.*

*Sept.* 3. She ſaid ſhe was perfectly well, and deſired to give Thanks to the Board.——However for fear of a Relapſe, I ordered her to take ſome of theſe Medicines with her, and to continue uſing them a little longer.

## CASE XXXII.

*Fits from Fretting and Surpriſe.*

*Eliz. Savage*, thirty four Years old, about four Months ago, a Week after Delivery, was taken with Sickneſs, Fainting, and Dizzineſs; after which enſued ſtruggling Fits, with Loſs of Senſes, in which ſhe continued, with but little Interval between, the whole Night. She had been fretting on Account of her Poverty, and met with a great Surpriſe,

which was the immediate Occaſion of the Fits coming on.——From that Time ſhe had them frequently, generally in the Night, and obſerves that ſhe is worſe about the Changes of the Moon. She has her *Menſes* regularly, and is commonly ill about that Time. Is coſtive, her Urine ſometimes like Whey, then clear or cloudy.

*April* 8, 1745. As ſhe was very low and weak, it being at the Time of the *Menſes*, I did not adviſe Bleeding; but ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

In this Method we went on 'till the 24th, when ſhe had miſſed her Fits ſeveral Days, and had better Spirits; but a new Complaint had appeared, which was, that ſhe made but

little Urine, had a Pain in the Small of her Back, and her *Abdomen* began to ſwell.——I ordered the aperient *Elect.* to be taken Nights and Mornings, to keep the Body open, and the *Tinct. diuret. N.* twice a Day in Barley Water.

Theſe Medicines were continued till the 3d of *June*, when the laſt Symptoms were totally removed; during that Time ſhe had but two Fits, *viz.* on the 27th of *April*, the Day of the firſt Quarter of the Moon, and the 25th of *May*, two Days before the firſt Quarter.——I now repeated the *Pil. fæt.* again, and ordered *Spir. C. C. cum Tinct. fulig. ana p. æq.* to be taken frequently.

*June* 24. Has had no Fits ſince the 25th of *May*, and as ſhe has miſſed them through all the Changes

of the Moon, thinks herſelf well in that Reſpect; but they have impaired her Memory very much, and her Head is weak and generally dizzy.

I now ventured to have her blooded, by which ſhe found preſent Relief, a Bliſter in the Neck, and the *Pil. fœt.* and *Spir. C. C. cum Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* as before.

*July* 3. Her Memory better, and her Head well, but complains of a Pain in her back, and a little Difficulty of Urine.——She had the *Tinct. diur. N.* to be taken three Times a Day, in warm Barley Water.

*July* 23. Was well in every Reſpect, and gave Thanks to the Board of the Committee for her Cure.

It is very likely, this poor Woman by Fretting had prevented Nature

from exonerating herſelf by the natural Diſcharges, which leaving a Load upon the Nerves, occaſioned the Complaints ſhe laboured under. She is ill about the Time of the *Menſes*, as moſt weakly Conſtitutions are, either from the Commotion in the Fluids, or the Loſs of Blood. Her Coſtiveneſs is accounted for elſewhere, and the Variety of Urine may be attributed to the Fluctuation in a tottering Conſtitution, which ſometimes concocts it a little, then not at all, or even tranſmits ſome of the very Chyle itſelf.

When ſhe grew better of her Fits, the morbific Matter ſeemed to be depoſited upon the urinary Paſſages, which before were unmoleſted. This is a Symptom not uncommon in theſe Diſorders, which if it doth not give

Way

Way to the other Medicines, ſhould be treated as if there were really Gravel or Stone in the Caſe, though there is neither, and by which Means this Woman's Cure was compleated.

## CASE XXXIII.

### *Fits from a Fright.*

MARY *Allen*, aged ſeventeen, of a ſanguine Complexion, and healthy Aſpect, was about three Years ago ſeized after a Fright, with Sickneſs at Stomach, Dizzineſs of the Head, Starting of the Arms, and then fainted away, and lay like one dead about one Hour and half. She has the Startings of her Arms every Day, after getting out of Bed in the Morning and towards Evening;

her Fits not ſo often, but any Fright or Surpriſe brings them on. Complains of a bad Digeſtion; has had her *Menſes* regularly theſe two Years, at that Time finds no Alteration in Regard to the hyſteric Complaint, but obſerves that Bleeding generally relieves her. Her *Alvus* regular, Urine generally pale.

*Apr.* 17, 1745. Ordered *V. S. Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*Apr.* 22. Found ſome Eaſe after Bleeding, but the Starting ſtill very bad.——Ordered the Pills again, and a Mixture of *G. Ammon. Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to be uſed frequently.

*May* 6. Has had ſeveral Fits, Starting a little better, complains of a great Pain and Weight in her Head.

Ordered

Ordered to go on with the Pills, a Mixture with *Sal. C. C.* and a ſmall Quantity of *Laud. liq.* to be taken three or four Times a Day, and a Bliſter to her Neck.

*May* 20. Head ſomewhat better, Fits and Startings ſtill very bad. As ſhe had been coſtive ſeveral Days, ordered her a Purge, and afterwards *Pil. Epilept.* to be taken three Times a Day, with the *Elix. Vitr.*

*June* 7. Finds but little Amendment, her Stomach being puffed up, has miſſed her *Menſes.*——Ordered *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* and a perpetual Bliſter on the left Arm.

*June* 17. Head better ſince the Bliſter, has never been ſo long free from her Fits and Startings as ſince the laſt Preſcription, but is ſtill low

and faint. As the *Tinct. Cathol.* had not kept her Body open, I added ſome *Tinct. jalap.* to it, and bid her take of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* twice or oftner a Day.

*June* 24. No Fits, but Starting, and Head very bad, alſo complains of a bad Digeſtion.——As ſhe ſtill was inclined to be coſtive, ordered *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and ſome *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, alſo *Elix. Vitr. V. S. pedis*, and a Bliſter in the Neck.

*July* 9. No Fits, Starting very bad to Day, (full Moon to Morrow. Obſerves is generally worſe about that Time.)——As the Startings returned Mornings and Evenings at a certain Hour, I thought to try the *Cortex*, to which added ſome *Steel Rad. Valer. Caſt.* and *Z. Z.*

*July*

*July* 15. Had a Fit the 12th, a very bad one, Starting rather worſe. This was no Incouragement to go on with the Bark. Being heated and ſhort breath'd, ordered again *V. S. pedis*, a Calomel Pill at Night, and a Purge next Day.——The *Elect. aperiens* to keep her Body open, and *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* three Times a Day.

*July* 17. No Fits, Starting better. To take three Times a Day of the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.*

*July* 22. No Fit, Starting worſe again.——A Calomel Pill at Night, a Cathartic next Morning, a Paregoric at Night, and *Tinct. Viſc. querc.* three times a Day.

*July* 27. No Fits, Starting better, Stomach eaſier.——Had the laſt Medicines again. Took a little Blood

from the Arm, which was very dark coloured, with too ſmall a Proportion of *Serum*.

*Aug.* 5. Had miſſed her Startings three Days, but were returned again, with Sinking of her Spirits.——Ordered a Calomel Pill, the Cathartic, and Paregoric as before, and *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.*

*Aug.* 14. No Fits theſe fourteen Days, Starting very little; on Account of the Want of her *Menſes*, complains of Shortneſs of Breath, Pain of the Head, and under the left Ribs.—— Ordered *V. S. ped. Pil. Ecphract.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

*Aug.* 26. No Fits, Starting not ſo bad, complains of Sickneſs and Swelling at Stomach; no *Menſes*.——*Pil. Ecphr.* as before, a Mixture of *Tinct. Helleb.*

*Helleb. nig. Mart. Mynſ. & Spir. Lav. C.* to be taken twice a Day in warm Water or Mint Tea.

*Aug.* 30. No Fits; Pain of the Head and Side very bad, alſo very ſick at Stomach.——No *Menſes.*

Ordered *Mixt. Cathol.* with ſome *Tinct. Martis* Nights and Mornings, alſo the laſt Drops again.

*Sept.* 2. Had Fits the 31ſt of *Aug.* (Moon full the Day before) and Starting very bad, at the ſame Time the *Menſes* came down in due Manner; finds herſelf in a fine Way ſince.—— Had *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* to take Nights and Mornings for the Uneaſineſs at Stomach.—This being pretty well removed, after ſome Days, but the Pain below the *Coſtæ* ſtill troubleſome, ordered *Æth. min.* and *Crud. Antim.* twice a Day, with

*Decoct.*

*Decoct. Lign.* which compleated the Cure, and the 15th of *Octob.* after this tedious Proceſs ſhe came to return Thanks to the Board.

In this Caſe ſeveral Things deſerve our Notice. And

1. That if ſhe had not had Advice and Medicines gratis, it is probable ſhe would not have gone on with me ſo long, but left me under the Notion that I could not cure her.

2. Her Fits were periodical, for which I tried the *Cortex*, but with none, or rather a bad Effect.

3. She had her *Menſes* well at firſt ſetting out, but in the Purſuit of her Cure loſt them, and when ſhe was near being cured they appeared again. This Shifting of the morbific Matter I have obſerved alſo in others. As

the

the Obſtruction could not proceed from the nervous and opening Medicines, it may perhaps be that the morbific Matter, which occaſioned the Fits, being diſturbed, ſhifted about, and fell upon the *Uterus*, and brought on this Diſorder. In which Opinion I am confirmed from what happened in regard to the muſcular Pain on the left Side. After the Fits, Tremor, &c. had been well handled and abated with various Medicines, this Pain appeared; and at laſt, when all other Complaints were quite removed, it was cured with an antiſcorbutic Medicine.

CASE

## CASE XXXIV.

### *Hyſteric Fits from a Fright.*

ESther *Dyer*, aged about thirteen, three Years ago thought ſhe ſaw the Apparition of her Father before their Door, who was then but lately dead, upon which great Fright and Surprize ſhe felt a Sickneſs at Stomach, Chilline ſs all over, Dizzineſs of the Head; and a little farther, being then going to St. *Magnus*'s Free-School, fell ſuddenly down in the Street, ſhrieking, ſtruggling, laughing between whiles, biting her Lips, Tongue, and every Thing ſhe could come at.

Theſe ſorts of Fits ſhe has had ever ſince almoſt every Day, or every other

other Day at fartheſt, they laſting ſometimes two Hours, the ſhorteſt half an Hour.

She had been ſix Months in a Hoſpital, where ſhe was frequently ſtrapt down in her Bed on account of her Fits: From whence, finding herſelf better, ſhe went home and to the Free-School again, but was ſoon turn'd out, her Fits returning ſo bad, that the other Children were terrified at it.

After that ſhe came into the *London Infirmary*, the 9th of *Oct.* 1744. I ordered her to be blooded, a Bliſter in her Neck, a Doſe of the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and a Bolus of *Mithrid.* with ſome *Caſtor* the Night after the Purge, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*Oct.*

*Oct.* 12. She had *Pil. fœt.* to take every other Night, the Bolus as before, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day, being greatly relieved already.

*Oct.* 18. Her Fits being conſiderably diminiſhed, and the Medicines agreeing very well with her, I ordered them to be continued.

*Oct.* 23. As ſhe went on mending, I did not alter her Medicines. The Bliſter was now dried up.

*Oct.* 29. Had no Fits ſeveral Days, was grown ſtrong and briſk, but as ſhe complained of a little Dizzineſs, I ordered her to loſe ſome Blood from the jugular Vein, which removed that Complaint, and to confirm her Cure to go on ſome Time with the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before. That Day ſhe returned Thanks to the Board, and was diſmiſſed.

Never

Never Cure went on more ſucceſsfully, and beyond my Expectation was performed in a very ſhort Time. The *Pil. fœt.* purged her very kindly, which rather raiſed than depreſſed her Spirits, as commonly happens in nervous Caſes from great Evacuations, and the *Elix. Vitr.* had all the deſired Effect poſſible, bracing up her Stomach, and the whole nervous Syſtem, ſo that ſhe ſoon recovered her Appetite, which at firſt was very languid, and grew briſker viſibly every Day.

This Inſtance is a ſingular Proof, that Evacuations, and bracing up at the ſame Time, are the chief Intentions in the Cure of Fits.

The Beginning of *July*, 1745. being told ſhe ſold Fruit with her

Mother near *Fiſhmonger*'s *Hall*, I ſent for her to know whether ſhe had had any Fits ſince ſhe went from the *Infirmary*. The 3d of *July* ſhe came, and ſaid ſhe had had but one ſince, and that was four Months ago, complains can't eat much, is weak and heavy to ſleep. Is generally coſtive, her Urine very high coloured.

I ordered *V. S.* a Bliſter to her Neck, *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and *El. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

*July* 24. Had a Fit Yeſterday, but has a better Appetite, and is not ſo heavy to ſleep.——Went on with the Pills and Drops.

*July* 31. Was very faint and ſick the 27th and 28th, but no Fit.—The ſame Medicines again.

*Auguſt*

*Auguſt* 5. Was made an In-patient the 2d. Had two Fits Yeſterday, occaſioned by a Fright, but not ſo ſtrong as the laſt, nor ſo long.——The Pills and Drops again, and a perpetual Bliſter on the Arm.

*Auguſt* 11. No Fits, is briſk, Appetite pretty good. Againſt the approaching Change of the Moon, ordered her to loſe a little Blood, then an Emetic, and a Purge afterwards.

*Aug.* 14. No Fit, is briſk and well.——Ordered again *Pil. fœt.* and *El. Vitr. Mynſ.*

*Aug.* 18. Yeſterday had ſeveral Fits, owing to a Quarrel with another Patient in the Ward. To Day is pretty well, but feels a gnawing Pain at Stomach in the Morning faſting.——Ordered an Electuary, with *Conſ. abſinth. Rom.* and *Limatur.*

*Stanni*, alſo the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.*

*Aug.* 21. Had four Fits ſince the 18th, but not ſo long or ſtrong as formerly. Gnawing at Stomach better. Went on as before.

*Aug.* 28. No Fits, Appetite good, Gnawing but little. Againſt the Change of the Moon, ordered Evacuations as above.—After this ſhe went on again with the *Elect. cum Limat. Stanni* till the 10th of *Sept.* during which Time ſhe had but one Fit from a Surpriſe, a very ſlight one, and the Gnawing at Stomach being quite removed.——Ordered the *Pil. fæt.* again, and *El. Vitr.* which ſhe continued 'till the 24th of *Sept.* when finding that ſhe had had no Fits, though ſhe had met with a great Fright during that Time, Dizzineſs of the Head, and Pain at Stomach gone,

gone, ſhe was diſmiſſed as an In-patient, but I adviſed her to continue the laſt Medicines a while longer to confirm her Cure, which ſhe did 'till the 15th of *Oct.* when ſhe came to acquaint me ſhe had had no Fit ſince, and found herſelf perfectly well.

As this Girl had had a Return of her Fits formerly, I judged from the Symptoms ſhe complained of when I ſent for her in *July* 1745, that ſhe was going to have Fits again. Accordingly ſhe was blooded, and had Medicines to take by Way of Prevention, notwithſtanding which ſhe had a Fit, ſome Days after.

The Gnawing at Stomach was removed by the *Limatura Stanni*, and *Conſ. Abſinth. Roman.* But as no

Worms were perceived to come from her, it is doubtful, whether the bitter Conſerve, or the *Stanni Limat.* did the Buſineſs.

I have not ſeen her ſince, ſo conclude ſhe continues well.

## CASE XXXV.

### *Hyſteric Fits after a Fever, with Contraction of the left Hand.*

*Eliz. Fox*, aged twenty four, had a violent Fever about nine Years ago, at the going off of which ſhe perceived a Tremor all over, and ſomething riſing from the *Abdomen* to her Throat, with Suffocation, and which left a Swelling there at firſt, but ſmall, but now is as big as a Hen's Egg. Afterwards ſhe

ſhe had ſtruggling Fits, which ſometimes went off with violent Laughing, ſo that ſhe was often quite hoarſe with it, and very languid ſeveral Days after. At other Times a Fit of Crying finiſhed them, after which ſhe found herſelf always beſt, and obſerved that when a Fit was coming on, and ſhe burſt out a crying, it did prevent it.——Thus ſhe has been troubled ever ſince, her Fits laſting off and on ſometimes three Weeks running.——She commonly has a Fever in Spring, and then her Fits are always worſe.——She has her *Menſes* at regular Periods, but too abundant, ſometimes they laſt fourteen Days, and then ſhe is commonly beſt.——She is generally coſtive, her Urine pale, and in too great a Quantity.——About ſix Months ago ſhe

ſprained her left Wriſt, ſince that the Hand has been lame, and all the Fingers ſo contracted, that the Nails are almoſt drawn into the Fleſh, which is very painful.——She has had Advice, and taken various Medicines, but to no Effect.——Obſerves that Bleeding abates her Fits, as it weakens the Conſtitution, but when ſhe has recovered her Strength they return with equal Violence.

*June* 10, 1745. Three Days ago was in Fits almoſt twenty eight Hours, ſtruggling and beating herſelf, with violent Laughing. Was blooded and is better ſince.——Ordered *Mixt. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.—— The Surgeon put her Hand extended upon a Board to remedy the painful Contraction of the Fingers, rubbed

in

in *Opodeld.* Nights and Mornings.

*June* 14. Had two Fits the 12th, very ſtrong. Thinks her Stomach better.——Ordered as before.

*June* 19. Had had ſeveral Fits. Two at the *Infirmary*, Laughing and Struggling, laſted about half an Hour. Tumor in her Throat better.——*Mixt. Cathol.* as before. Alſo *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ. & Laud. liq. parumper, ter die*, and *Linim. Opodeld.* for the Hand.

*June* 26. Fits as before, but laſt not ſo long. Hand a little better, but the Fleſh of the Palm waſtes, has had her *Menſes* very moderately.—Went on as before.

*July* 3. Had Fits all Day long the 1ſt (full Moon the 2d) complains of a violent *Vertigo.*——Ordered *V. S.* Bliſter

Blister to her Neck, and the two Mixtures as before.

*July* 11. Fits very bad these two Days, Dizziness of the Head troublesome, and gnawing Pain at Stomach. Hand better.——Ordered an *Elect.* with *Limat. Stanni*, *Valer. Cast.* & *Z. Z.* Nights and Mornings, of *Mixt. Cathol.* a Tea-spoon full at eleven and six in the Afternoon. Also *Opodeld.* for the Hand.

*July* 17. Had Fits Yesterday, but not so very bad, Appetite better, Head easier, not so confused.—— Advised cold Bathing, the Medicines as before.

*July* 24. Fits the nineteenth and twenty first, not so long nor strong. Ordered the Electuary Nights and Mornings, and *Visc. querci* twice a Day; also *Opodeldoch.*

*July* 31. Had Fits the twenty ſixth and twenty eighth, ſick at Stomach, has a cold numb'd Pain in her left Side and Head, was Yeſterday chilliſh all the Day, though went warm into the Bath.——Ordered the Bathing to be ſuſpended.—— Theſe Medicines not anſwering our Expectation, and the Stomach being greatly diſordered, I directed *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* three Times a Day, with *Tinct. Stom. Amar.* alſo a Julep with *Sal. Vol. C. C.* to be uſed when faint.

*Aug.* 7. Fits the 1ſt (full Moon the 3d) Pain of the Stomach and Side, alſo the Hand much at one; miſſed her *Menſes.*——*V. S. pedis*, a vermifuge bitter Powder Nights and Mornings, and an oily Mixture, with *Sal. Vol. C. C.*

*Aug.*

*Aug.* 14. Had Fits the 12th all Day, was quite ſenſeleſs, has had none ſince, Pain of the Stomach and Side not ſo bad ſince laſt Medicines, Arm not ſo lame, but Hand the ſame. Ordered an Iſſue in the lame Arm, and the laſt Medicines again.

*Aug.* 19. Had Fits the 16th (that Day new Moon) Appetite bad, Stomach painful and ſwell'd.——Ordered *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and as ſhe was inclined to be coſtive, ſome *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* occaſionally.

*Aug.* 26. No Fits, Swelling at Stomach quite gone, but is very ſick, vomits up every Thing, miſſed her *Menſes* upwards of ſix Weeks.—— Ordered an aromatick Stomach Mixture three times a Day, *Tinct. fulig.* as before.

*Aug.*

*Aug.* 30. No Fits, Starting very bad, brings up almoſt every Thing, even the Medicines, Pain of her Side and Pinching in her Bowels bad.—— *V. S. pedis. Pil. Stomach. c. Gumm.* three times a Day, with a Stomach Bitter.

*Sept.* 4. No Fits, Starting and Vomiting better, Hand the ſame. Adviſed holding it in a warm Bullock's Paunch. Has had her *Menſes.*—— The laſt Medicines again.

*Sept.* 11. No Fits, Sickneſs and Vomiting quite gone. Had made uſe of the Bullock's Paunch, but found her Hand and Arm very painful and rather worſe. Has ſince dipp'd it in cold Water, found it glow and eaſier. Has violent Shootings in the Head at Times.——Went on as before.

*Sept.*

*Sept.* 16. No Fits 'till laſt Night, which the exceſſive Pain of the Head ſhe has lately been ſubject to, brought on. Thinking it to be a Tranſlation of the morbific Matter from the Arm to the Head, I bid her leave off cold Bathing her Hand.—Bliſters behind the Ears, Cupping in the Neck, a Powder with *Æthiops Miner. Crude Antim. & G. Guaj.* Nights and Mornings, to abſorb and evacuate the peccant Matter which ſeemed to be afloat, and a Mixture of *Spir. C. C. Lavend. C.* and a little *Laud. liq.* when faint, alſo *pulv. Sternutator.*

*Sept.* 23. The ſhooting and darting Pain of her Head ſo bad, that it puts her into Fits, is commonly worſe at Nights. The ſame Powder again, with a Diet Drink of the Wood, a Vomit to Morrow Afternoon, and Paregoric at Night.

*Sept.*

*Sept.* 30. Was cupped, which had not been done on Account of her Blisters, Head better, no Fits.—The Powder and Diet Drink as before, a Paregoric Pill every Night, the last Paregoric having had a very good Effect.

*Oct.* 7. No Fits, Head better, has now again Stitches in her Stomach and right Side, and Startings.—The Powders and Diet Drink as before, *Spir. C. C.* twice or thrice a Day, an Ointment for the ,Hand, and Bleeding in the lame Arm.

*Oct.* 15. No Fits, Starting better, Head well, Pain of the Stomach and Side better, perceives that since she was blooded in the lame Arm she can extend her Fingers a little, which latterly had been kept extended upon a Paste-board, the Contraction not being

being quite ſo violent.——Had the Powders and Diet Drink again.

*Oct.* 21. No Fits, Head and Stomach well, Starting mends. Has an Eruption about her Body like the Shingles. Ordered *V. S.* in the ſame Arm again, *Pil. Calom.* a Cathartic, a Paregoric, and *Cerat. Turn.* for the Puſtles.

*Oct.* 28. No Fits, all the other Complaints better, Hand continues mending, the Eruptions better.—— The *Calomel* Pill, Purge and Paregoric, alſo the Ointment for the Hand.

*Nov.* 4. No Fits, Hand mends, but an Uneaſineſs at Stomach, and low-ſpirited (doubtleſs from the repeated Evacuations)——Ordered *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* Nights and Mornings, and a Mixture of *Lac Ammon. Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ. Sal. C. C.* and *Laud. liq. parv. quant.*

*Nov.*

*Nov.* 8. No Fits, Hand mends, laſt Complaints better. Ordered Bleeding in the lame Arm once more, and the laſt Medicines.

*Nov.* 12. Returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure. The Pills once more, and *Elix. Vitr.* to brace up the *primæ viæ*.

The Wriſt being weakned by a Sprain, the Spaſmodic Matter fell upon that Part, and occaſioned that ſtubborn Lameneſs and Contraction.

She had her *Menſes* regularly at firſt, and rather too abundant, but in the Proceſs of Cure they ſtopped; whether this was owing to the Evacuations made, or the peccant Matter ſhifting to thoſe Parts, as it did to the Stomach, Head, Side, Bowels, *&c.* I will not determine: The laſt

ſeems the moſt probable, from their appearing again before the Completion of the Cure.

The frequent and violent Riſings in her Throat had occaſioned a very uncommon Appearance, *viz.* a kind of hyſteric *Bronchocele.*

She took *Valerian*, *Caſtor*, *Viſc. querci*, *&c.* a good while without any Advantage.

Her Conſtitution being much reduced, the Cold Bath was rather hurtful than of Service, and the particular Immerſion of the Arm, as it ſeemed to help that Limb, ſo probably by that Means moſt excruciating Pains were tranſmitted to the Head by a Tranſlation of Matter. Her Fits were generally worſe about the Changes of the Moon.

As

As the darting Pains of her Head ſeemed worſe at Night, I took them to have aſſumed a Type of the Rheumatic Diſorder; and therefore ordered the *pulv. Alter. c. Guaj.* and a Decoction of the Woods, which ſeparated from the Blood an acrimonious *Serum* under the Appearance of the Shingles, accompanied with violent Inflammation and Itching, and which proved of great Service, and probably brought the Cure to a Period.

The good Effect produced by Bleeding in the lame Arm, is alſo worthy our Notice.

## CASE XXXVI.

*Palsy and Convulsions from eating of Tea.*

A Girl of about twelve Years of Age was taken last Year, with Loss of Appetite, grew pale and languid, and soon after the left Side of her Face became paralytic, and her Speech began to falter, her Arms and Legs not at all affected.

She had no Colic Pains or Costiveness, which I first inquired after, thinking it might be owing to the *Effluvia* from Lead (which exert their pernicious Effects chiefly at first in that Manner) she being a Glasier's Daughter: But found that she had made free with her Mother's Cannisters,

niſters, and privately eat Tea, for about ſix or ſeven Weeks laſt paſt.

As ſhe was pale and languid, I ordered no Bleeding, but a Bliſter to her Neck, *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, with a volatile Julep, a gentle Paregoric the Night after the Operation of the Pills, and of the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ. & Spir. Lav. C. ana p. æq.* the Days between, and to increaſe the Drops as her Stomach could bear them.

This Method revived her Spirits, removed the Palſy of the Face, and reſtored her Appetite in about ten Days Time. However as ſhe ſtill continued pale and weak, I adviſed her to be ſent into the Country, to take the Pills twice a Week, and the Drops the intermediate Days; by which Means ſhe recovered very faſt.

Some Time after this, *viz.* the 26th of *June*, 1745. the paralytic Diſorder ſeized the right Side of her Face, with a Lameneſs and Tremor in that Arm, in the Nature of the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, and a feveriſh Heat, which generally was worſt in the Afternoon.

Upon this ſhe was brought to Town. I found her ſtill very pale and languid, with Loſs of Appetite, a Sediment in the Urine tending to red, and a great Pain about the *Sutura Coronalis*.

As the Bliſter of the Neck ſtill diſcharged, which I ordered to be kept open, I thought it not neceſſary to apply one upon the Head. She was to take the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and the *Mixtur. Salin.* to bring the Fever to an Intermiſſion.

*July*

*July* 2. The feveriſh Heat had almoſt left her; very little Sediment in the Urine, which was paliſh. The Contraction of the right Side of the Face gone, as alſo the Tremor of that Arm, her Appetite better, and ſhe was not ſo languid.——I ordered the Saline Mixture to be continued, to extinguiſh quite the febrile Heat, and to evacuate by Means of the Pills the Load injurious to the nervous Syſtem, to prevent a Relapſe.

*July* 22. Her Face remained well, Appetite good, *Alvus* regular, Urine well coloured, Complexion mended from ſallow to lively, not ſo drowzy, ſleeps naturally well, and gathers Strength.

As this Caſe partakes of the Nature of the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, it belongs

properly enough to this Collection, though my chief View of inſerting it, is to ſhew the pernicious Effects of the intemperate Uſe of Tea.

*Schroder*, who is very ſanguine in his Commendation of this Vegetable, praiſes its Vertues for all Manner of Rheums, Catharrhs, Indigeſtion, Weakneſs of the Reins, Joints and Gout. And ſums up all with ſaying, that it is an Augmenter of human Strength, and preſerves from all Infections of the Air, to which Purpoſe divers Ambaſſadors reſiding in *China*, uſed it in his Time in the Morning.

As a Diluter and Detergent, it may properly enough be uſed in ſome Caſes he mentions: But we know from longer Experience, that as it rarifies and diſſipates the finer Juices, which ſhould ſerve to actuate the

Nerves,

Nerves, it brings on Tremors, *Vertigos*, Watchings, and all manner of hypochondriac, hyſteric, and paralytic Diſorders, and therefore is by no Means to be looked upon as a Preſerver of human Strength. And I am perſuaded, that the frequent Uſe of this Plant is the chief Cauſe, next to private Dram drinking, which I am afraid is too much practiſed, of the various nervous Complaints that are ſo common among the fair Sex.

Before this Child took to eating of Tea, ſhe was healthy, briſk and active; her paralytic Diſorder can therefore be attributed to no other Cauſe. And as the ſmaller Branches of Nerves were already affected, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, that by the continued Exceſs in Tea, the Origin, which on Account of its ſtronger Texture remained

mained hitherto unmoleſted, would in Proceſs of Time have alſo ſuffered, the Conſequence of which muſt have been a total Relaxation, and Deſtruction of the animal Frame. On the contrary it appears, that when this Abuſe was laid aſide, and proper Medicines applied, ſhe was ſoon reſtored to her former State of Health.

## CASE XXXVII.

### *Palſy and Convulſions.*

MARY *Dobſon*, aged forty, of a robuſt Habit, had loſt about fourteen Days before ſhe came to the *Infirmary*, all on a ſudden her Speech, and the Uſe of her left Side.

Finding that ſhe had bore many Children, and that her *Menſes* were

dodging

dodging her, I ordered the 2d of *Oct.* 1745. *V. S.* a Calomel Pill two Nights following, a Cathartic the next Morning, and a Paregoric at Night.

*Oct.* 9. She ſeemed to be relieved, therefore ordered the ſame Medicines again.

*Octob.* 15. Began to recover her Speech, her Lameneſs alſo better. Preſcribed as before.

*Oct.* 18. Lameneſs and Speech better, but has no Appetite. Imagining the Purges were the Occaſion of it, I ordered her the *Mixt. Cathol. cum Tinct. Mart. Mynſ.* Nights and Mornings to evacuate gently, and to warm the Stomach and *primæ viæ*, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* to brace them up.

*Oct.*

*Oct.* 25. Her Speech and Lameneſs mended, her Appetite no better. Continued as before.

*Nov.* 6. Was better in every Reſpect, but had felt a convulſive Tremor inwardly.——As ſhe mentioned the Medicines ſeemed rather too ſtrong for her Stomach, I ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and allay'd the Pungency of the *Elix. Vitr.* with ſome of our *Tinct. Stomach. Amar.*

With theſe Medicines ſhe went on 'till the 4th of *Dec.* when ſhe ſtill continued on the mending Hand, but complained of an Uneaſineſs at Stomach: and apprehending it might proceed from the Acid in the Drops, I ordered *Tinct. Amar. Stomach.* & *Semin. Cardamom. ana p. æq.* inſtead of the *Elix. Vitr.*——As ſhe had had ſeveral of thoſe convulſive Tremors,

mors, prescribed also *V. S.* again, and *Episp. perp. intern. Brach. sinistr.*

*Dec.* 23. Was better in every Respect. Had the Pills and Drops again.

*Dec.* 30. Continued mending, but complained of a Lowness of Spirits and Dizziness of the Head.——Ordered the Pills as before, and *Spir. C. C.* twice a Day, also *pulv. Sternut.*

From that Time I saw her no more 'till she came to return Thanks for her Cure, which was the 4th of *Febr.* 1745-6.

This Case, as well as the precedent, is originally paralytic. It is here likewise to be observed, that when the morbific Matter was disturbed, it fell upon the Intestines, or *plexus mesentericus*, and there produced convulsive Agitations. And from both

Caſes we may draw this Inference, that on Account of the Affinity between a Palſy and Convulſions, the Tranſition is not very great from one to the other.

## CASE XXXVIII.

*Palſy and Convulſions.*

E—— *B*——, twenty five Years of Age, of a thin Habit, but healthy Complexion, perceived in the Beginning of *March*, 1744-5. between five and ſix in the Evening, on a ſudden ſuch a Coldneſs in her Hands, that ſhe was going to the Fire to warm them, when preſently, to her great Surpriſe, both her Arms dropt down, ſo that ſhe could only move them from her Shoulders, but

downwards had loſt all Motion. She had eat a moderate Dinner, had uſed no hard Exerciſe that Day, and was at home when this Accident happened; had felt no Dizzineſs of the Head, Sickneſs at Stomach, nor any other Diſorder whatever.

She was blooded, and took ſome Medicines from an Apothecary, but without any Amendment. When I ſaw her firſt, which was on the 25th of *March*, her Pulſe was quick, but not full, her Hands felt warm, though they ſeemed quite cold to her, and when pinch'd was not ſenſible of it. She had a conſtant Thirſt, but pretty good Appetite, ſlept well, her *Alvus* regular, Urine free, generally thick, and *Menſes* in good Order, which continued ſo during the whole Time of her Cure.

I or-

I ordered her to loſe eight Ounces of Blood, an Emetick, to diſlodge the Load occaſioning the Obſtruction of the Nerves, *Pil. Ruff.* to carry off by the *Anus* the Matter thus reſolved, and a volatile Julep, to attenuate the Juices, and ſtimulate the now inſenſible Nerves, alſo a Bliſter to her Back for the ſame End.

*March* 29. She had comply'd with my Preſcription, but found no Amendment in her Arms. I ordered her Arms to be rubb'd twice a Day, with an Infuſion of hot Water and Muſtard Seed, and to go on with the *Pil. Ruff.* and volatile Julep.

*Apr.* 5. Began to have ſome Feeling in the Fingers of her left Hand, about two Days ago, and now had the ſame Senſation in thoſe of her right Hand. Finding the firſt pre-

ſcribed

ſcribed Medicines had a good Effect, they were ordered to be continued.

*Apr.* 15. She had continued mending every Day, and by Degrees recovered the Feeling and Motion of both her Arms and Hands, which were now perfectly well. But on the 13th in the Evening had been taken ſuddenly with a ſtrong Convulſion Fit, which laſted near one Hour, and when ſhe recovered from it, her Speech was gone, ſo that ſhe could not utter one ſingle Word.

As ſhe had her *Menſes* at this Time, did not care to bleed her, but ordered a Bliſter in the Nape of her Neck, the *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. fulig.* Nights and Mornings, and the volatile Julep as before, and to gargle her Mouth with an Infuſion of Muſtard Seed.

*Apr.* 19. She could make ſome Uſe of her Tongue, and utter ſome Words, though but imperfectly.—— The laſt Medicines were continued.

*Apr.* 29. She went on mending. She had the *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. fulig.* again. And as ſhe complained of a Colic Pain in her Bowels, I added a little *Laud. liq.* to the volatile Julep.

*May* 6. Had perfectly recovered her Speech, and to confirm her Cure, ordered her to take *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day.

Although this Caſe is not of the Convulſive Order from the Beginning, yet as Convulſions intervene during the Proceſs of Cure, it deſerves being taken Notice of here, on Account of that Peculiarity. The

The Attack was truly paralytic, Motion and Senſation was loſt, and when the peccant Matter came to be diſlodged from its firſt Hold, Nature was going to lend an aſſiſtant Hand, and made an Effort by the Convulſive Motions to throw it off, and not being capable of effecting it, it fell upon the Organs of Speech.

Her Urine is thick, becauſe the *Miaſmata* that ſhould have been thrown off by inſenſible Perſpiration, in thoſe Parts where the nervous Fibres had loſt their Tone, are retained in the Blood; and to this may alſo be aſcribed the feveriſh Heat, and conſtant Thirſt.

The *Viſcus querci*, and *Valeriana Sylv.* two famous Specifics, do not much appear in theſe Caſes, becauſe

I had tried them formerly ſo often, 'till I found that no Dependance was to be made upon them only, but that the chief of the Cure conſiſted in Evacuations and Medicines, corroborating the *primæ viæ*.

If you conſider the State the Brain was found in at the Diſſections above quoted, you will eaſily allow this Poſition to be true, and agree that the *Viſc. querci*, *Valerian. Sylv. Caſtor. pæon. Aſſ. fœt. G. Ammon. Cinnab. Antimon. Aur. muſiv. Bezoar. Cran. hum. Ungul. Alcis. Sterc. pavon. &c.* of themſelves can be of little or no Service. But the morbific Matter being evacuated, they may come in to corroborate the Nerves; or if they are uſed before, nothing elſe is either aimed at or to be expected from them, but to ſupport during

during the Courſe of other Remedies the languid Spirits.

The chief Inſtance I have ſeen of the good Effects of the *Viſc. querci*, was in the Caſe of one *John Wharton*, a Lad of about fifteen, who had the *St. Vitus Dance* in his right Arm and Leg.——I began with Bleeding, gave him the *Pil. aur.* two Nights following, a Purge the Morning after, and a Paregoric at Night; which was repeated two or three Times, and ſeemed to make him better. After that, for Fear of weakning him too much, I ordered the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day, which at firſt agreed very well, and his Arm and Leg were ſteadier.——But whilſt I thought him on the mending Hand, we were ſurpriſed not only

with a Return of the Geſticulation of the right Arm and Leg as ſtrong as ever, but alſo the left Arm was affected with the ſame kind of Motion. Upon which, imagining his Nerves could not bear Evacuations any longer, I ordered him to take of *pulv. Viſc. querc.* as much as his Stomach would bear, Nights and Mornings, and a ſtomachic Bitter at eleven and five. This Courſe immediately took Place, and ſoon compleated his Cure.

About the ſame Time, *Sarah Whitton*, aged nineteen, who had the *S^t. Vitus Dance* in the right Arm and Leg, was alſo under my Care. She had her *Menſes* duly, and was of a healthy Complexion. After Evacuations made, as above mentioned, I ordered her alſo the *pulv. Viſc. querci*:

*querci:* But although ſhe took it a conſiderable Time, found no Amendment at all. After that ſhe took *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, in ſmall Quantities, gently to evacuate the morbific Matter, upon which ſhe grew better immediately.

In Caſe 33. the *Tinct. Viſc. querc.* at firſt ſeemed to have a good Effect, but afterwards the Startings returned again, notwithſtanding its Uſe was continued; and as the Blood was very thick, and wanted a ſufficient Quantity of *Serum*, I therefore could truſt to the *Viſc. querc.* no longer, but ordered *Calomel* to thin the Blood, which was attended with good Succeſs.

What has been ſaid of the *Viſc. querc.* alſo holds good in general, with Reſpect to the *Valerian* and

other nervous Medicines, with this Addition, that this Drug is more offenſive to the Stomach than the other, eſpecially when taken in ſuch Quantities as *Fabius Columna* mentions, *viz.* half a Spoonful or more at a Time.

When the Stomach has loſt its Tone, and almoſt loaths all kind of Food, as is frequently the Caſe of Perſons labouring under Fits, how can it be expected it ſhould be in a Condition to receive and digeſt ſuch a Quantity of a dry and nauſeous Root? Or if it is got down, you will ſoon deſtroy the little Appetite that is left, and neceſſary for the ſupport of the Patient.

When the Stomach is in this languid State, the *Tinct. Cathol.* and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* ſeem to be the beſt adapted

adapted Remedies. For the firſt gently warms the Stomach, invigorates its relaxed Nerves, and as an alterative Aperient gently evacuates the peccant Matter; the latter braces up the firſt Paſſages at the ſame Time, and perhaps, as it is of great Efficacy in Rheumatic and Scorbutic Caſes, may likewiſe by its acid and chalybeate Quality, ſerve to correct the Fluid occaſioning Spaſms, which in ſome of theſe Caſes ſeems to border very near upon that Claſs.

When the Stomach doth not want ſo much Warming, or when the Patient has taken the *Tinct. Hier.* ſome Time (leſt it ſhould become habituated to it, or for Fear the Liver ſhould be injured by its Heat) the *Pil. fœtid.* may be given. And if the Patient ſhould nauſeate, or not be able

to

to digeſt them in the ſolid Form, they may be diſſolved, and rendered more tolerable to the Stomach in a Draught.

As a Vehicle for the Pills or Powders, I uſually make the Poor take ſome *Spir. C. C* or *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* in a Glaſs of Water; for the Rich it is eaſy to contrive proper Juleps, as Vehicles, with hyſteric Ingredients, to add to their Efficacy.

I could eaſily have furniſhed more Caſes, as will appear from the great Number that occur at the *London Infirmary* every Year. But as theſe contain Examples of almoſt every Kind of Fits, I may ſay with Dr. *Cheyne de Febr. Much more might be added on this Head, but theſe are ſufficient, elſe twice ſo much will not ſuffice.*

*CASES of the Bite of mad Creatures, treated after the Method of Dr.* Desault, *with some additional Means of my own, Observations upon the same, and Remedies proposed for the Cure of the* Hydrophobia.

SOME Years since a Translation from the *French* was published, intitled——*A* TREATISE *on the Venereal Distemper, containing a Method of curing it without Salivation, Danger, or great Expence. With two Dissertations, the first, on Madness from the Bite of mad Creatures, the second on Consumptions. With a Method of curing them radically. By* PIERRE DESAULT, *M. D. and Member of the College of Physicians of* Bourdeaux.

As

As to his Method of treating the Venereal Diſtemper without Salivation with rubbing in the mercurial Ointment, and purging it off when the Mouth begins to be hot, I have made ſeveral Trials of it, but cannot ſay that it is as certain or effectual a Proceſs as a Salivation: Notwithſtanding that a late Surgeon of this Town, who bore the Character of Learning and Skill in his Profeſſion, was ſo ſanguine an Advocate for this Practice, that he publiſhed ſeveral Pamphlets, to perſuade the Public, that it is infallible in all the Symptoms of the moſt confirmed *Lues*. But whether this Aſſertion was as honeſt, as it was well calculated to bring Griſts to his Mill, I will leave to thoſe to determine, who have gone through his Courſe.

How-

However it muſt be owned, that in ſlighter Degrees of Infection, the *Cordee*, *Phimoſis*, *Paraphimoſis*, Venereal Ulcers, &c. it may be applied to great Advantage, as alſo in White Swellings, ſome of which I have ſeen that Way treated with Succeſs; of which perhaps at another Opportunity.——This only by the by, my preſent Deſign being to give an Account of what Succeſs I have had with his Method of treating the Bite of mad Creatures, and what other Means were made uſe of to aſſiſt in the Purſuit of his Scheme.

## CASE I.

THE firſt Opportunity I had of trying this Method, was upon a Gentleman of about thirty, who was bit

bit by a Cat, that had been ſullen ſome Days, and refuſed both Meat and Drink, and died the next Day after the Bite.

She had bit alſo a Dog, who ſhewing the uſual Symptoms of Madneſs, was deſtroyed to prevent Miſchief.

Two Days after the Bite, the wounded Part, which was the Joint of his right Forefinger, appeared livid, ſwell'd and hard, with a Stiffneſs in the Joint, and a continual dull and heavy Pain.

I ordered the Part to be ſcarified, and the Blood not coming freely, to be ſqueezed out. Then to rub into and about the Place, after the Bleeding was ſtopt, ſome of the *Unguent. Neapolitan.* and ſo twice a Day, and to cover it with a Mercurial Plaiſter. The ſame Afternoon he went into the

the Cold Bath, and that Night and the following he took a Bolus with *Calom.* and a Purge the Morning after the ſecond Bolus. In the Afternoon he went into the Cold Bath again, and at Night took a Bolus of *Ther. Androm. & pulv. Antilyſſ.*

The next Morning he took the *pulv. Antilyſſ.* and two Nights following his mercurial Boluſes again, and the Purge as before; which upon the whole was repeated three or four Times, rubbing in the mercurial Ointment conſtantly twice a Day, and keeping the mercurial Plaiſter over the Wound.

He took but four or five Doſes of the *pulv. Antilyſſ* and went into the Cold Bath but a few Times, although I adviſed him to bathe oftner, and to take more of the Powder; of which

he

he grew neglectful, finding that the Wound healed in a very kindly Manner. However he uſed the mercurial Ointment twice a Day, wearing conſtantly a mercurial Plaiſter over the Part, for about three Weeks, and has continued well ſince, ſave common Illneſs, which is near eight Years ago.

## CASE II.

*William Davis*, five Years of Age, was brought to the *London Infirmary* by his Mother on the 18th of *June*, 1742. She ſaid a mad Dog had bit him in the hind Part of his Neck the Day before. The Dog's Teeth had penetrated through the Skin, and fetch'd Blood. The ſore Place was of a livid Colour, hard

and

and ſwelled, attended with a numb'd Pain, alſo a dull and heavy Head-ach, Thirſt, and little Fever.

I ordered crural Inciſions to be made upon the part through the common Integuments, and let it bleed 'till it ſtopt of itſelf. Then a mercurial Plaiſter was applied upon the Sore, and the Mother was directed to rub in upon the Place of the *Ung. Neapolit.* at Night and the Morning following, covering the Place again with the *Empl. Mercur.* That ſame Day in the Afternoon, the Mother was directed to dip the Child over Head and Ears into a Tub of cold Water, and to give him at Night going to reſt a Calomel Pill, and the Morning following a Purge; and towards the Evening to dip him again into the cold Water, and at Night to give

him a Bolus, with *Conf. Mithrid.* and *Sal. vol. C. C.*——All which the Mother promiſed to ſee done punctually, I having repreſented to her earneſtly the dangerous Conſequence that might follow, if my Directions were not faithfully complied with.

On the 21ſt the Child was brought again, I ordered *Ung. Neapolit.* to be rubb'd in again as before, to dip him that Afternoon in cold Water, to give him the Calomel Pill at Night, and the Purging Powder the Morning following, as before.

The 23d he had again of the *Ung. Mercur.* to be uſed Nights and Mornings. He was dipt in cold Water, and took the Calomel Pill over Night, the Purging Powder the Morning following, and the above Bolus at Night.

The 26th I saw the Child again. The Wound was healed, the Flesh soft like the rest, and of a kindly Aspect. The Mother said she had dipt him in cold Water the Day before: And as his Mouth was not hot, or any Symptom of a Spitting appeared, I ordered him again the mercurial Pill at Night, the Purge next Morning, and Bolus as before.

About this time he was taken ill of the Measles, for which he was blooded, and took gentle alexipharmic Medicines and Pectorals, and when recovered was purged twice more with the Calomel Pill and Powder as before, at proper Intervals.

Now the Child seeming brisk and lively, with a fresh Colour in his Face, I let him alone for about eight Days, when I purged him once more, and

bid the Mother bring him to me again a Month afterwards. By Way of Precaution he had Phyſic once more at that Time, and I deſired the Mother to apply to me immediately if ſhe found the Child any Ways diſordered, but he has continued well, and was alive two Years after the Accident, when he was my Patient again for a ſlight Diſorder.

## CASE III.

*JOHN Poſtern*, aged about forty five, was bit by a Dog in the hind Part of his right Leg, juſt above the Shoe upon the *Tendo Achillis*, on the 21ſt of *Aug.* 1743.—The Dog, he ſaid, came running along, bit and ſnapt at other Dogs, and at every

Perſon

Perſon in his Way: His Tongue hung out of his Mouth, he foamed, his Head and Tail hanging down, and looked as if very much fatigued. *Poſtern* not being aware ſoon enough to get out of the Way, the Dog bit him without any Provocation. What became of him, he could not tell, for he was ſo terrified that he went away immediately; and a Hue and Cry being ſet up, he ſuppoſed the Dog was ſoon killed.

He came to the *London Infirmary* the next Day, when I perceived the Print of ſeveral of the Dog's Teeth very plain, the Skin raiſed, and it had bled a little. The wounded Part was ſwelled, hard, and of a livid Colour, attended with a numb'd pricking Pain, with an Aſpect of Malignity, peculiar to thoſe Sorts of

Wounds: and it ſeemed to him as if ſomething cold was frequently trickling about the Place, which made him ſometimes look whether any Blood was coming from the Wound; this Symptom is taken Notice of by other Authors.—— I immediately ordered the wounded Part to be ſcarified croſs-ways through the common Integuments, the ſtagnated Blood to be ſqueezed out, and to let it bleed as long as it would. Afterwards to rub in ſome of the *Ung. Mercur.* as alſo Nights and Mornings with the *Emplaſt. Mercurial.* over it. That Afternoon he bathed in the River, and at Night took a Pill with *Calomel.* and the next Morning a Purge, and at Night ſome *Theriac. Androm.*

*August* 24. I ordered him to go again into the Water, and to continue rubbing in of the *Ung. Mercurial.* Nights and Mornings. He took the Calomel Pill that Night, and one the Night following, and the Morning of the 26th the Purging Powder, and the Paregoric Bolus going to Reſt; and as he complained of a Dizzineſs in his Head and Trembling, to take of the *Tinctur. fulig. cum Aſſ.* twice or oftner a Day in a Glaſs of fair Water.

*Sept.* 1. He came to me, telling me that he had uſed the mercurial Ointment Nights and Mornings, bathed in cold Water almoſt every Day, and taken the Drops ever ſince; but the Purges having weak'ned him pretty much, was the Occaſion of his not coming before. The Wound was

now almoſt healed and looked very kindly; and as his Throat was ſore, and Glands tumified, and his Strength would not admit of ſtronger Cathartics, I ordered him the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* as before, and *Ung. Mercur.* to rub in a little Nights and Mornings about the Part, with the *Empl. Mercurial.* over it.

The 8th of *Sept.* he came to the *Infirmary*; I reproved him for ſtaying away ſo long, but he to excuſe himſelf ſaid, that finding he was pretty well, the Wound quite healed, and all his Complaints abated, nay almoſt gone, he thought there was no farther Occaſion for his coming, but to thank me. The Swelling of the Glands being gone, and his Throat eaſy, I ordered him to continue rubbing

bing in ſome more mercurial Ointment, and by Way of Precaution to take once more of the Calomel Pills and Purge, alſo to continue the *Tinctura fulig. cum Aſſ.* as before, and to call upon me a few Days after.——The Patient was in good Health before this Accident, but ſince complained of a heavy Pain of his Head and Dizzineſs, which at Times obſtructed his Hearing; had often Shiverings, ſucceeded by hot Fits and Fluſhings in his Face, was thirſty, his Tongue white and furr'd, and his Pulſe frequent, but not full. His Appetite was ſometimes ſharp, and when he had eat ſeemed to be faint and ſick, and ſometimes could not eat at all. His Sleep was uneaſy and diſturbed, and he was generally coſtive, and obſerved that when he had

Stools

Stools procured him, his Symptoms were relieved.

*Sept.* 14. He came again, complaining with Tears in his Eyes, that being quite well of the former Accident, he had had the Misfortune of being bit again by a mad Dog, and worſe than before.——A little Cur Dog of a Neighbour's of his, having been from Home about two Days, his Maſter ſeeing him running about and ſnapping at People, and foaming at his Mouth, took him by the Neck, and carried him home; where perceiving that he look'd fierce and wild about his Eyes, and endeavoured to ſnap at and bite him, he let him go. Upon which he bit *Poſtern*, who was in the Houſe, in three Places, in his left Leg, near the Shin Bone. He had but a thin Pair of Stockings on,

wherefore

wherefore the Dog's Teeth had penetrated rather more than the time before.——The Dog bit alſo the ſame Time one *Mary Walker* in the Hand, making a conſiderable Wound, which bled plentifully. She alſo was a Patient at the *Infirmary*, and treated after the ſame Method, excepting that Scarification was not neceſſary, and has continued well ſince. ——The Maſter killed the Dog immediately, and according to the Notion of the Vulgar, perſuaded them to eat the Liver fry'd, which made them very ſick and vomit.

I found theſe Wounds ſorer than the former, and his Complaints ſucceeded by all the Symptoms again in the ſame Manner as at firſt. Crural Inciſions were made again in all the three Places, and afterwards ſome of the

the *Unguent. Mercur.* rubb'd in with the *Empl. Mercur.* over the Wounds. I ordered him again to immerge in cold Water at convenient Times, and to take one Calomel Pill that Night, another the Night following, and the Morning after a Cathartic, and at Night a Paregoric Bolus as above.

The 17th I ordered the laſt Preſcription to be repeated, and

The 20th he had the ſame again.

The 26th he went on as before, and had ſome *Tinct. fulig. cum Aſſ.* to take between whiles.

*Oct.* 3. The Wounds being healed and looking very well, but the Patient complaining of a Cholicky Diſorder in his Stomach and Bowels, and Purging, Faintneſs and Want of Appetite, I ordered him to go on with the *Ung. Mercur.* about the Parts that

that had been wounded.—To take of *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day, and *Theriac. Ven. cum pulv. Rhei* for three Doſes, every other Night.

After this I ſaw my Patient no more, ſo that I apprehended he had died of the *Hydrophobia*, 'till the 23d of *April*, 1744. when he came to me to excuſe himſelf, and ſaid he had been in the North to ſee his Friends, that he was in as good Health as ever in his Life, excepting that every full Moon he was troubled with a Dizzineſs and Uneaſineſs all over, which afterwards went off again; that he was apprehenſive this might be of ill Conſequence, and he fancied, if the Infection was not quite extirpated from his Blood, he might ſtill one Time or other fall a Sacrifice to its fatal Conſequences.

I or-

I ordered him to take *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and ſome *Elix. Vitrioli* twice a Day.

In *May* following he came again, and ſaid his Head was quite eaſy ſince the Purges, which he had obſerved all along; upon which I ordered him the ſame once more, and bid him come to me Fall and Spring for Relief 'till he ſhould find no more Remains of his Diſorder.

*Oct.* 1, 1744. He came with another Patient, and was very well.

Beſides theſe, I have ſeen ſeveral others at the *Infirmary*, that had been bit by mad Dogs, who were treated the ſame Way. But ſome of them coming but once or twice more for their Medicines, and others not returning at all, I do not think it conſiſtent with the Impartiality I profeſs,

to relate their Caſes, to draw any Inference from them: Although one ſhould naturally ſuppoſe, they would have returned or ſent to the Place, where they were ſure of having Advice and Medicines for aſking, if they had found themſelves otherwiſe than well.

Our Surgeons have alſo treated ſome with laying Cauſtics upon the Place, the Patients being purged briſkly with mercurial Medicines, with the deſired Succeſs. One in particular I cannot forbear mentioning, *viz. Francis Oſborn*, an In-patient, who was bit by a Dog in Company with four other Men, two of whom, as he was informed, died of the *Hydrophobia*.

As I ſaw none of the Creatures that bit the Patients, I cannot be ſure

ſure that they were mad any otherwiſe than from Report and Circumſtances. The Perſon bit in Caſe I. being a Limb of the Profeſſion of Phyſic, upon Inquiry thought, he had Proofs enough to believe the Cat was mad. ——As to the Child, Caſe II. the Mother told me, that the Dog run wildly about the Street, foamed at Mouth, and bit him without any Provocation, he being at the Door at Play with other Children. The Dog bit alſo at the ſame Time two Men, who went to *Graveſend*, to dip into ſalt Water. What became of them ſhe could not tell, they being Strangers to her.——And the Deſcription *Poſtern* gave of the Dog that bit him and the Woman, Caſe III. repreſents ſo exactly the Picture of a mad Dog, that I think few will doubt, but they

they received ſome Taint from the mad Dog, and that they probably would have died of the *Hydrophobia*, if proper Means had not been applied.

The Bite of a mad Dog is followed by ſuch ſhocking Symptoms, that the moſt violent Means have not been thought too harſh to prevent them. ——*Galen* adviſes to enlarge the Wound by circular Inciſion, to burn it with a hot Iron, and to keep the Ulcer open forty Days at leaſt. But if this Method ſeem too cruel, ſome adviſe to draw out the Venom by Cupping Glaſſes, applied upon the Part, having firſt made deep Scarifications, and uſing the *Unguent. Ægyptiac.* hot for a Dreſſing.

If external Remedies are omitted, or not applied ſeaſonably, the Cure

is to be endeavoured at by internal Means. *Alexipharmics* are to be given, and among the reſt the Aſhes of Cray-fiſh are vaſtly recommended by the Antients; and *Galen* ſays, that no one died who took this Remedy. The Doſe is one or two Spoonful every Day for forty Days, either alone, or with *Rad. Gentianæ & Thus*, in Wine.

Immerſion into Sea Water has been eſteemed a long Time a Cure for the Bite of mad Creatures; but Expe-rience ſhews that it is not to be depended upon, many having died of the *Hydrophobia*, after having gone through this Operation.——Some of the Moderns imagining that it was only the Shock from the ſudden Immerſion, that expelled the Poiſon, are of Opinion, that Bathing in any

cold

cold Water will do as well; yet I am inclined to think, that whilſt the Wound is recent, Salt Water may do better than freſh, becauſe the Salt may help to correct the *Virus*, and mundify the Sore.

*Ettmuller* recommends alexipharmic Medicines in a double Doſe, and for a long Time; to apply upon the Place a Leak, or Rue bruiſed, with Salt in Form of a Cataplaſm; Immerſion into cold Water, purging with *Hellebore* and *Mercur. dulc.* Diureticks and Cantharides as a Specifick.—After ſcarifying the Wound, ſays he, apply an Onion roaſted, or the following, ℞ *Cæp. acrem. N°. j. Cap. allior. N°. v. Ther. Venet.* ℥vj. *ferment.* ℥ß. *M. f. Cataplaſma.*—— Some add *Herb. Ruth. Sem. Sinap. ol. Scorpion. &c.* But as the moſt

expeditious Way, to burn the Place with a hot Iron, and if the Physician be called late, Application of Cupping Glasses, and an Issue to be opened near the Part affected.

The celebrated and learned Dr. *Mead* has introduced into Practice the *pulv. Antilyssus*, composed of *Lichen Ciner. terrestr. p. ij. & Piper. nigr. p. j*, which has been administred many Years with great Applause.—— Others recommend as a certain Cure *Cinnab. Antimon. & ambr. gris.*—— In *Hist. Academ. Scient. Gallic.* Bleeding repeated even to Fainting is recommended for the *Hydrophobia.*—— The *Medical Essays* of *Edinb.* Vol. I. mention a remarkable Case of a young Gentleman cured by repeated Bleedings, of a *Hydrophobia benigna.* But Experience doth not warrant that this

Practice

Practice will remove the true *Hydrophobia*, for which hitherto no Remedy has been found out.——They that would read more upon this Subject, are referred to Dr. *Leiſter*'s Works, who has treated copiouſly and learnedly upon this Subject.

Dr. *Deſault*, in his Treatiſe upon the Bite of a mad Dog, is of Opinion that the Contagion is communicated by a vermicular Poiſon, and as it affects chiefly the Glands of the Fauces, Reaſon dictated to him, that Mercury, which is a ſure Deſtroyer of *Vermiculi*, and which takes its chiefeſt Tendency towards thoſe Glands, might prove a proper Antidote. Or if it ſhould be communicated in any other Wiſe, like other contagious Diſtempers, *viz.* the Itch, Scald-head, Tetters, the Venereal Diſeaſe, cutaneous Worms,

Worms, &c. for which Mercury is a ſovereign Antidote; he thinks, "we may conclude from a Parity of "Reaſoning, that it may be uſed "for the *Rabies*, and that it cannot "be called Singularity or Raſhneſs "to adviſe the Uſe of Mercury to "prevent or cure it."——Accordingly he mentions ſeveral Caſes of Perſons bit by mad Creatures, which he treated with mercurial Unction with Succeſs, and one where the Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia* began to ſhew themſelves already.

In Purſuance to this Way of Reaſoning, I thought that ſcarifying the Part, to let out the ſtagnated and infected Blood, and rubbing afterwards ſome of the mercurial Ointment into the Place, might be more effectual; giving at the ſame time a mercurial

Medicine

Medicine internally, and purging it off, to colliquate and evacuate the infected Juices, not neglecting the *Pſychroluſia* and *Alexipharmics* at proper times.

This Method I am inclinable to believe will do to extinguiſh the Infection before any Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia* appear; but what will be of Service in thoſe Circumſtances, I cannot yet determine. *Deſault* propoſes putting the Patient into a Salivation, which as it cannot be brought on ſoon enough by Unction, I would recommend in the firſt Place copious Bleeding, and then a ſtrong mercurial Emetic, if it could be got down, if not, Fumigations with *Cinnab. Antimon.* rubbing in ſome of the *Ung. Merc.* at the ſame Time upon and about the Part that had been wounded,

and

and into the *axillary* and inguinal Glands.

I cannot forbear mentioning here, to corroborate in ſome Meaſure the foregoing, that an eminent and ingenious Practitioner of this Town told me, he had ſome Years ago cured a Perſon of a periodical Madneſs, attended with ſome Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia*, by a Salivation.

I ſubmit the Facts, which I have related, and may be depended upon to be literally true, to the Conſideration of the Public, and hope that others will try the Method I have purſued and propoſed, and improve upon it, for the Good of Mankind, as I intend to do, when Occaſion offers.

———*Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,*
*Candidus imperti: Si non, his utere mecum.*

HOR.

Com-

Compoſitions of Medicines mentioned in theſe Caſes from the *Pharmacopæa*, contrived for the Uſe of the *London Infirmary*.

℞ *Lect. Helmint.* ℞ *Limat. Stann. Conſ. abſinth. ana p. æq. Syr. alb. q. s. M.*

*Elect. Aper.* ℞ *Elect. Lenit.* ℔ *j. Rad. jalap. pulver.* ʒ *j* ß. *Crem. Tart.* ʒ *j. Syr. roſ. ſol. q. s. M.*

*Mixt. Cathol.* ℞ *Tinct. Sacr.* ℔ *iij. Syr. de Mecon.* ℔ *j. Sal. Vol. C. C.* ʒ *j. M.*

*Pil. Aurat.* ℞ *Calom. p. ij. Sulph. aur. antim. p. j. Mucilag. G. tragacanth. q. s. M. f. pil. gran. vj.*

*Pil. Belloſt.* ℞ *Hydrarg. depur.* ℔ *j. in Terebinth. ſubact. G. Guaj.* ℔ß. *reſin. jalap. Scammon. ana* ʒ *jv. Syr. è ſpin. Cerv. q. s. M.*

*Pil. Epilept.* ℞ *Pulv. Valerian. Sylv.* ℔ *j. Aſſ. fœt.* ʒ *x.* ʒ*vi. Sal. jov.*

℥ ij. ℥ vj. *Extr. Gent.* ℥ ij. *Balſ. Peruv. q. s. M. f. Maſſ.*

*Pil. Corrobor.* ℞ *G. Oliban.* ℥ j. *Rubig. ferr. pulv. Cinnam. ana* ℥ ij. *Conſ. roſ. r. Conf. franc. s. m. ana p. æq. & ſuff. ut f. Maſſ.*

*Pulv. Alter. cum Guaj.* ℞ *Æth. miner.* ℔ j. *Antim. Crud. ſubtiliſſ. pulver.* ℔ß. *G. Guaj.* ℥ jv. *M.*

*Pulv. Rhei Sulph.* ℞ *Pulv. Rhei p. ij. fl. Sulph. p. j. M.*

*Pulv. Vermifug.* ℞ *Sem. Santon.* ℥ vj. *Corallin. Limat. Stann. Subtiliſs. ana* ℥ jv. *M.*

*Tinct. Amar.* ℞ *Cort. Aurant.* ℥ jv. *Rad. Gentian.* ℥ ij. *Sem. Card. min.* ℥ j. *Coccinel.* ℥ j. *Sp. Vin. Brit.* ℔ ij. *f. Tinct. add. Unciæ cuique Laud. liq.* ℥ß. *M.*

*Tinct. Diur. N.* ℞ *Sal. Tart. Calc. Viv. ana* ℔ j. *Spir. Vin. Britt.* ℔ jv. *Santal. Rub. q. s. ad Color. Digere.*

FINIS.